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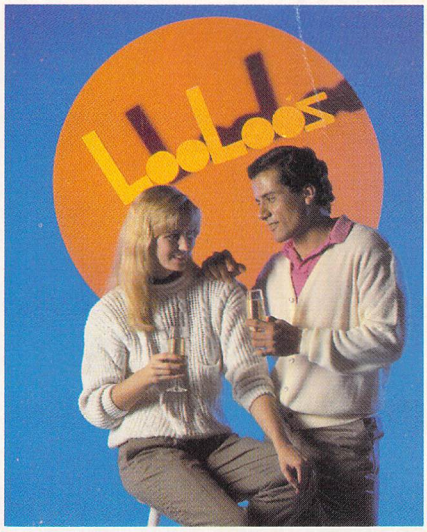

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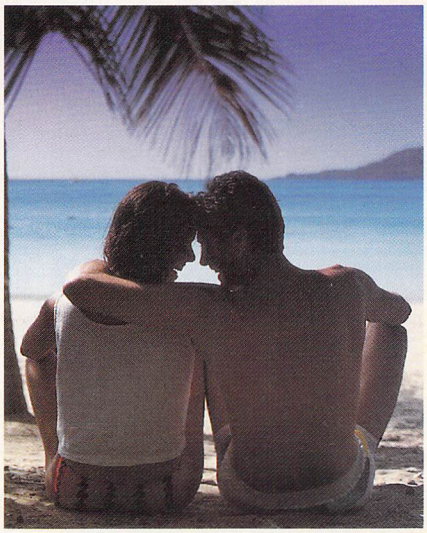

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Electronic Edition At A Glance

Online Today Electronic Edition provides daily-updated computer and information industry news, coverage of CompuServe's services, commentary, computer product reviews and more. For the latest news, access *Online Today Electronic Edition* by typing GO OLT at any CompuServe Information Service prompt.

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Information Services

DEAR READER

It's been some time since CompuServe ended day prime time connect charges. Nevertheless, it's still the evening and into the wee hours of the morning that you'll find the most simultaneous user activity on the Information Service. It's CompuServe's "nightlife," when the fun-loving side of the Information Service takes center stage.

This month's feature sheds some light on the nightlife and makes the rounds of some of the more popular entertainment spots in Micropolis. Whether it's war games, parlor games, quiz shows, CB Simulator or any of the dozens of entertainment-oriented features and forums, there's something for everybody beginning on page 12.

* * *

We'd like to call special attention to the News/Reference section in this issue beginning on page 24. The new section is part of a larger editorial plan we mentioned here last month, and that has already added or revamped three sections and will introduce three more by March 1988. News/Reference will provide in-depth coverage of news and reference services on CompuServe. This month, for example, you'll find articles on using demographic data services (page 24), and information about a new CompuServe main News menu (page 25). For all the news about the news that's fit to print—or download—read through this section every month.

Also, you may want to look over the restructured Business/Investing section, beginning on page 45. In coming months you will find more in-depth coverage of the Information Service's business features with a new accent on finance and investing. A feature on investing wisely by using the Executive News Service (page 46) and a profile of the Investors' Forum (page 45) make excellent, and profitable, reading.

By March three new sections will be added: Computing Services, which will provide more coverage of activities in the hardware and software forums; Lifestyles, a compendium of entertainment and social activities on CompuServe; and a "new and improved" Update section that will finally live up to its name. The new Update will contain last-minute news about important events and new product/service offerings in as little as three weeks before magazine press time. With *daily* updates in *Online Today Electronic Edition* and weekly "What's New" online, CompuServe subscribers can expect to be completely informed about important offerings, activities and events on the ever-growing CompuServe Information Service.

As always, we welcome and encourage your feedback to OLT editors. You can reach us by using CompuServe's online feedback area (GO FEEDBK) or *Online Today*'s own feedback area (GO OLT-30). We also welcome "old fashioned" calls and letters. Let us know if *Online Today* is meeting your needs and helping you to get the most from your time online.

Douglas G. Branstetter
Editor

ONLINE TODAY

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Volume 7 Number 1

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LETTERS

Electronic Edition Reviews

It would help if the menus for reviews in *Online Today Electronic Edition* were organized according to software and hardware products for specific computers (for example, a menu for Apple Macintosh products).

Jeremy S. Paulson
New York, N.Y.

I was disappointed to find that the Hardware Review menu in *Online Today Electronic Edition* listed reviews by months rather than by computer type and did not offer a search option. I was hoping to locate reviews of two specific IBM PC-AT clones but did not know if they had been reviewed at all. This does not seem like a productive way to search for information.

Ed Barnas
Brooklyn, N.Y.

I have been trying to locate a review of a specific Computer-Aided Design software package, EasyCAD, through *Online Today Electronic Edition's* Product Reviews section (OLT-200). The month-by-month structure of the menu makes it inconvenient to locate reviews of specific products. Are you considering revising the menu structure to be subject, category or title-oriented? Month-by-month listings are virtually useless as a means to find a specific item.

Peter Shapiro
Lexington, Mass.

Editor's Note: We appreciate the suggestions and are considering making changes in the organization of reviews.

Practical Peripheral

I enjoyed reading your review of Practical Peripheral's new modem (November issue, page 74), which you say has "sheer practicality." The review was flattering and the picture was sharp. The only problem is that what you have pictured is the printer buffer, not the modem.

Zan Lawrence
Mission Viejo, Calif.

Executive News Service

Many times I've thought it would be useful to have *Online Today Electronic Edition* as one of the news wires scanned by the Executive News Service. Has any thought been given to this possibility?

Robert Hanson
Brick, N.J.

Editor's Note: We are currently evaluating the feasibility of offering Online Today Electronic Edition *through the Executive News Service.*

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Letters To The Editor

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OLT-31	**Send a letter instructions.** *Complete instructions on how to send a letter to the editor via the electronic service.*
OLT-32	**Read letters** *from other readers.*
OLT-33	**Send a letter** *to the editor. You will receive prompts for each step in the process.*

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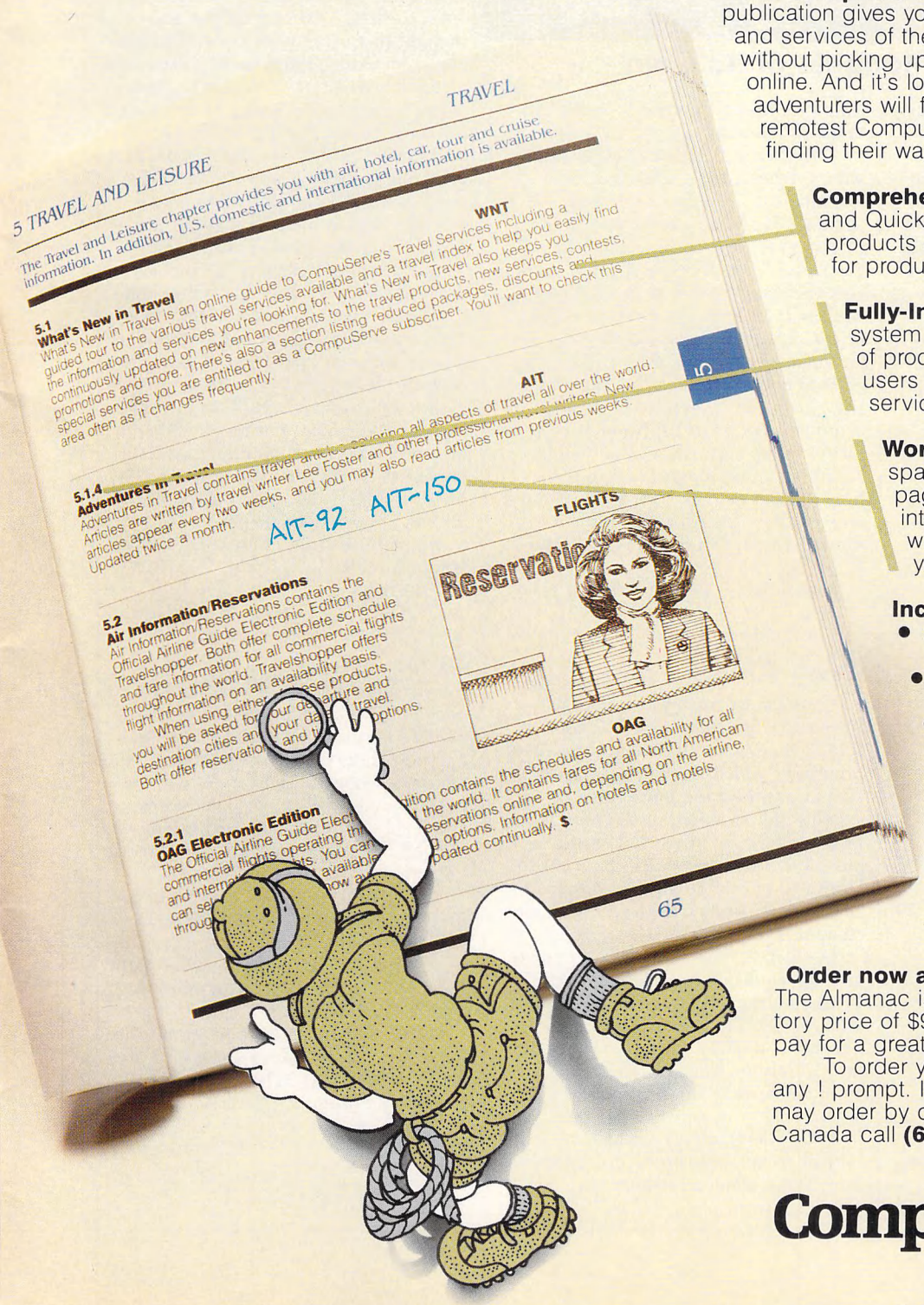
TRAVEL
5 TRAVEL AND LEISURE
The Travel and Leisure chapter provides you with air, hotel, car, tour and cruise information. In addition, U.S. domestic and international information is available.
5.1 What's New in Travel
WNT
What's New in Travel is an online guide to CompuServe's Travel Services including a guided tour to the various travel services available and a travel index to help you easily find the information and services you're looking for. What's New in Travel also keeps you continuously updated on new enhancements to the travel products, new services, contests, promotions and more. There's also a section listing reduced products, new services, discounts and special services you are entitled to as a CompuServe subscriber. You'll want to check this area often as it changes frequently.
AIT
5.1.4 Adventures in Travel
Adventures in Travel contains travel articles covering all aspects of travel all over the world. Articles are written by travel writer Lee Foster and other professional travel writers. New articles appear every two weeks, and you may also read articles from previous weeks. Updated twice a month.
AIT-92 AIT-150
FLIGHTS
5.2 Air Information/Reservations
Air Information/Reservations contains the Official Airline Guide Electronic Edition and Travelshopper. Both offer complete schedule and fare information for all commercial flights throughout the world. Travelshopper offers flight information on an availability basis.
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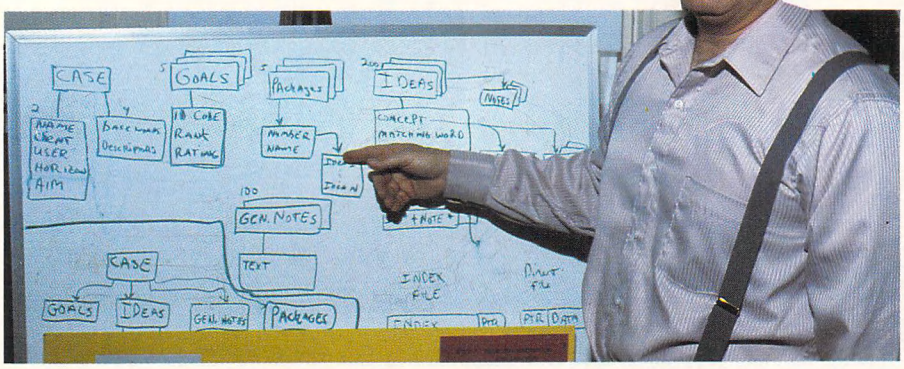

Virginia Tech News Bureau

Professor's Idea Has Thoughts of Its Own

One of the greatest pains to human nature is the pain of a new idea. So said Walter Bagehot, a 19th century English economist and journalist. Had Bagehot lived in the 20th century, his ideas and so his pains would have been many, thanks to The Idea Machine, the brainchild of Professor John Dickey, a researcher at Virginia Technical Institute.

The Idea Machine, otherwise known as TIM, is a computer program that stimulates thinking and aids in problem solving by combining research in artificial intelligence, business decision-making and policy analysis. "TIM uses the latest in computer, video and audio technology. It generates ideas through comparisons with other situations and through stimuli of sight, sound and smell," says Dickey, a professor in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies and the Center for Public Administration and Policy.

The system is fed several descriptor words, from a list of 200, that best describe the problem. TIM then searches for these words in 16 sources of concepts. The source could be an electronic encyclopedia or a list of facts garnered from places such as *Ripley's Believe It or Not,* Isaac Asimov's *Book of Facts* and *2201 Fascinating Facts.*

The source also can be a list of general concepts, such as "turn it upside down" or "stretch it," or a list of synonyms or proverbs. Soon to be added to the source inventory are descriptions of paintings from the National Gallery of Art. TIM will then be able to show the user a painting through the use of certain descriptor words.

One problem Dickey fed TIM was how to reduce prison overcrowding. He used such descriptor words as "institution," "change," "defenseless" and "scarce." TIM pulled up the concept "electronic funds accounting," which suggested to Dickey that overcrowding could be reduced by having prisoners released on their own recognizance but having them wear leg bracelets to account for their locations.

TIM plays a number of unusual musical selections to add inspiration. And, for fun, TIM can titillate the thought processes with a set of aroma disks, including gingerbread, roses and a candlelight dinner. "Actually, these smells can trigger an idea by bringing out long-lost memories," says Dickey.

TIM helps in the evaluation of ideas and weighs them in importance. According to Dickey, "Most individual problems relate to several goals, not just one. In the prison case, for instance, there is a need to keep costs down, protect the public, and rehabilitate and punish prisoners. TIM helps decision-makers decide on the relative importance and likelihood of achieving each of these goals."

Dickey is not yet ready to market The Idea Machine, but he is willing to take problems over the phone or let a client use TIM in his "Idea Salon." Most problems, he says, can be dealt with in about six hours.

For information, contact Dickey at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061; 703/961-6668.

Electronic Edition Computer Industry News

Online Today Electronic Edition's Monitor section keeps you abreast of the latest computer and information industry news. Stories are added several times each day and the hot items are highlighted on our "front page," OLT-1. A week's worth of recent news is always available for review (OLT-20). To read today's news, type GO OLT-90 at any CompuServe Information Service prompt.

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Behind the Screens	**OLT-130**
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Recent News	**OLT-20**
Reporting News to Us	**OLT-352**
Special Reports	**OLT-2000**
Today's News	**OLT-90**

Drug Alert!

A recent survey by the National Association of Elementary School Principals reports that 89 percent of 495 principals polled think drug education should begin by the third grade.

With this in mind, parents and teachers may be interested in a computer program from Mindscape called Drug Alert! The program is designed to educate elementary through high school students on the facts of drug abuse.

In Drug Alert!, students participate in the realities of drug addiction by getting a drug-addicted friend out of a seedy hotel. They answer drug-related questions, destroy the drugs stashed throughout the hotel, and find and identify the drug their friend is addicted to.

Drug Alert! allows students to think critically and solve problems related to drug abuse using a medium they enjoy—the computer.

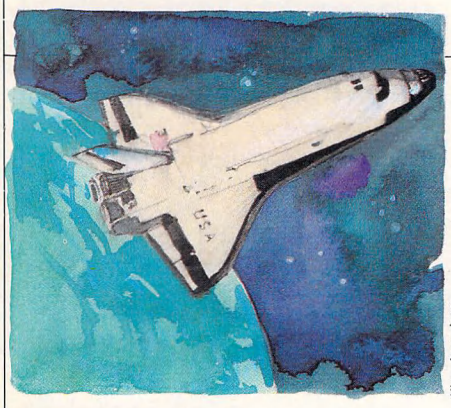
An online handbook teaches drug education with a database of 45 drugs divided into four categories: narcotics and pain killers, stimulants, depressants and hallucinogens. The street names, overdose and withdrawal symptoms, and legal status of each drug are described. The database can be printed in its entirety.

Drug Alert! sells for $39.95 and is designed to operate on the Apple II family of computers.

For information, contact Mindscape Inc., 3444 Dundee Rd., Northbrook, IL 60062; 312/480-7667.

Substance abuse support groups are located in CompuServe's Health Forum (GO GOODHEALTH) and Human Sexuality Forum B (GO HSX-200).

—Cathryn Conroy



King Associates

NASA Releases PC Shuttle Software

Cray supercomputers may be the epitome of computer chic, but NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab relies on a 512K IBM PC-XT to design and operate shuttle missions. Shuttle Mission Design and Operations Software is a specially designed system originally developed in 1984 that has since been implemented to run on an IBM PC-XT.

SMDOS, written by four Caltech researchers, uses vectors obtained from the Johnson Space Center.

SMDOS was developed to monitor spacecraft in low orbits around Earth. Currently, the only craft meeting that specification is the shuttle orbiter. Once a shuttle is launched, SMDOS provides orbital and graphics information about the flight.

NASA offers the software to companies or individuals who need an orbiter's ground track, relay points and other associated information. Previous uses of SMDOS provided new agricultural, oceanographic and geological information.

Further details can be obtained by contacting COSMIC at 404/542-3265.

More information about the shuttle program and outer space in general is available in CompuServe's Space Forum (GO SPACEFORUM).

—James Moran

Stella Tracks AIDS

AIDS continues to draw public attention. And while a cure or vaccine probably remains years away, interest grows in tracking the spread of the AIDS epidemic.

When experts want to know what the impact of AIDS will be on segments of the public, they turn to David Ahlgren, Ph.D., an associate professor of engineering and computer science at Trinity College, a small liberal arts school in Hartford, Conn. Ahlgren's tool for forecasting the disease's progress is "Stella," a little-known computer language developed several years ago at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"Stella is well-suited for this work," says Ahlgren, "since it lets you simulate the causes and effects of a potential AIDS epidemic almost instantaneously." According to Ahlgren, the language enables him to develop a computer model that shows how the spread of AIDS will respond to various social and behavioral factors, for instance, how the epidemic would be affected by giving free sterilized needles to drug addicts.

Ahlgren says the AIDS model was developed almost by accident. Last year, Trinity received a $150,000 grant from the Alfred P. Sloane Foundation to develop a series of courses and a lecture series about technology. One result of the program was a course titled "Understanding Systems."

Initially, the class aimed to show students how computer technology can be applied to forecast problems such as pollution control and energy waste. Soon, and perhaps inevitably, the participants' attention turned to AIDS. "The application of the model to AIDS just seemed obvious," says Ahlgren.

Since then, health experts and political leaders around the nation have sought Ahlgren and his model to help them deal with the disease. Last June, the model was acclaimed at the Third International Conference on AIDS in Washington, D.C.

"We've received a lot of enthusiastic responses," he says. "People want us to work with them, to tell them more about our model. It has been satisfying work, and we're glad we're making a contribution to the fight against AIDS."

Further details on Ahlgren's AIDS model are available from Trinity College, 203/527-3151.

To learn more about AIDS, check the following online offerings: AIDS Quiz (GO AIDSQUIZ), Health Forum (GO GOODHEALTH), Health/Fitness (GO FITNESS), HealthCom (GO HCM-455), Human Sexuality (GO HUMAN) and the Rare Disease Database (GO NORD).

—John Edwards

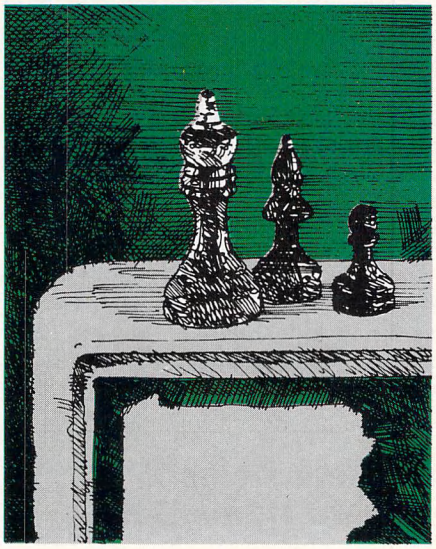
A Case of Discrimination

Officials of the Pennsylvania State Chess Championship refused to recognize the best chess player in the Keystone State merely because it isn't human.

At the tournament, held recently at Pennsylvania State University in State College, Pa., the computer defeated 76 human players. The computer, nicknamed "Hitech," represented Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University.

According to Hans Berliner, a CMU computer scientist, Hitech, which plays humans via telephone lines, defeated a senior master player and the state champion and therefore should be recognized as the best chess player in Pennsylvania.

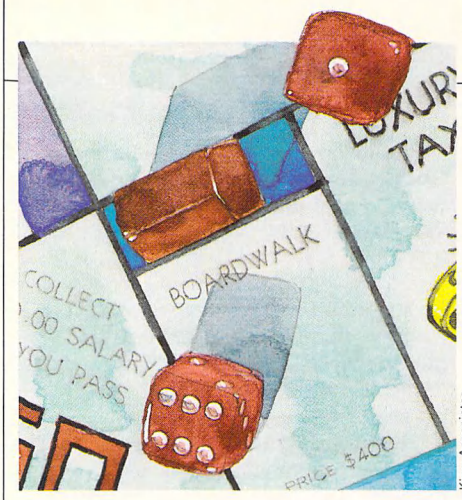
CompuServe subscribers can support computer equality by playing *Interactive Chess* (GO CHESS).



Electronic Edition Columns

When you want to read opinions behind the latest computer and information industry news, turn to *Online Today Electronic Edition's* Columns. You'll find insights, witticisms, user tips and more by leading computer journalists. To read any of the columns, type GO OLT-110 at any CompuServe Information Service prompt.

COLUMNS	
Ask Dr. John	OLT-3200
Beginner's Corner	OLT-140
Behind the Screens	OLT-130
Calendar of Events	OLT-1000
Columns by Gutman	OLT-175
Online with Bowen	OLT-3500
Uploads Updates	OLT-3700



King Associates

Make a Million on *Monopoly* Board

Are you a perennial *Monopoly* loser? Do Boardwalk hotel rents destroy your Mediterranean Avenue profits? Take heart, friend. Climb out of the Community Chest, head to your nearest bookstore (do not pass GO, do not collect $200) and pick up a copy of *Winning Monopoly*.

Winning Monopoly marks the first time anyone has used computer technology to analyze the strategy that goes into a winning *Monopoly* effort, according to its 39-year-old author, Kaz Darzinskis, a Chicago safety engineer.

"People give all sorts of opinions on the best properties to land on or buy," he says. "Yet, until now, the best techniques have been the result of intuition and guesswork."

To create the book, Darzinskis analyzed more than 187,000 games. Two personal computers in his basement tested innumerable game tactics 24 hours a day for six months. The product of all this CPU energy is a comprehensive, 226-page text that Darzinskis promises will provide readers with a clear-cut winning edge. In all, the book offers readers 108 investment suggestions and 139 strategic moves.

"For instance, the book shows that players who try to buy every piece of property are doomed because they'll be unable to afford the houses and hotels that are needed to bankrupt opponents," says Darzinskis. "They'll also discover that popular properties, such as Park Place and Boardwalk, are not necessarily strategically important," he notes.

While Darzinskis says his book can help a good *Monopoly* player become better, he claims that the text is a tool, not a panacea. "You still have to be pretty good at horse trading and psychological warfare to be a winning *Monopoly* player," he says. According to Darzinskis, *Winning Monopoly* also helps readers perfect these skills.

Winning Monopoly, published by Harper & Row's Perennial Library, is available in bookstores nationwide. You can meet *Monopoly* players and other board-game players in CompuServe's Gamers' Forum (GO GAMERS).

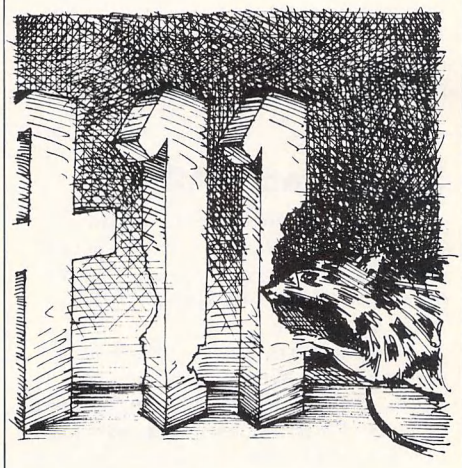
—John Edwards

Rodent Snarls 411

We've all heard of computer bugs, but some Southern Californians recently suffered from the effects of a computer rat.

Last September, a rascally rodent crawled into an electrical transformer on a pole outside a PacBell computer center. The rat was rapidly fried, and the phone company lost its directory assistance service off and on for two days.

PacBell estimates that 72,000 residents of Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside and San Diego counties were frustrated in their attempts to reach 411. Eventually, the phone company called in Southern California Edison Co. crews, who restored power after finding the wayward rodent.



Marketers Hustle Toward Home Base

"Homebodies" are taking the attention of advertisers. As the latest targeted product market group, those who work at home join the ranks of affluent singles, families, DINKS (double income, no kids) and the like. But there is one problem: No one seems to know who the home-workers are or how many exist.

The work-from-home market is a great "untapped potential" for manufacturers and dealers in computer, telecommunications and office products. Between 14 million and 23 million people are estimated to incorporate this market, but little is known about their characteristics or buying patterns.

Exact statistics are not available due to the varying terminology researchers have used to describe the work-from-home crowd. Home-worker, cottage-keyer, telecommuter, teleworker, self-employer and moonlighter are a few of the names used, according to Curtis Manufacturing Co., a computer hardware manufacturer. It is enough to turn a marketing executive's dream into a nightmare.

One of the first indications that this group may be significant in size came about in an unexpected way. During the 1980 Census, one question referred to the method of travel used to go to work. According to the Census Bureau, about 2.2 million people responded that they work at home with more than 1.2 million of those being self-employed.

A survey by AT&T indicates that 23 million people work from home, while a study by LINK Resources, a market research firm, cites a "conservative estimate" of 14 million. The Bureau of Labor Statistics entered the counting game in 1985 and said 18 million people work at home as part of their regular employment.

Why do people work from home? According to Joanne H. Pratt Associates, a consulting firm, "Individuals want more control over their lives," and home-based employment provides that control. The market has been stimulated by new types of computer jobs, and many corporations are willing to test telecommuting programs from the home.

LINK reports that Americans spent more than $4 billion in installed home computers and approximately $8.7 billion in telephone services in 1986. Industry is beginning to realize that home computers are used to operate businesses, not just for storing recipes and balancing the family checkbook.

More information on working at home is available in the Working From Home Forum (GO WORK).

—Cathryn Conroy

Get More Out of Your Computer

I had the good fortune of spending nearly three days late last year with Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager as he celebrated the 40th anniversary of his sound barrier-breaking flight in the Bell X-1.

In conversations with the general, one thing was clear: Yeager believes "the right stuff" on that historic day came in part from his knowledge of the machine he was flying.

In fact, before Yeager became an Air Force pilot, he had been an airplane mechanic. He not only knew how to fly the X-1, but he also knew all of its parts and systems, how the plane was put together and even how to repair it. As a result, he said, breaking the sound barrier was not a surprise to him. He was certain he could do it in the X-1 because he knew the beast he was flying.

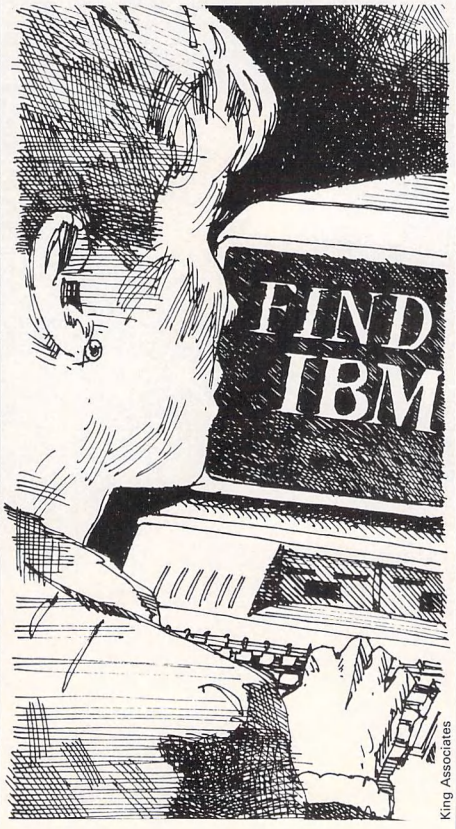
In communicating with new users about CompuServe, I've discovered that this "mysterious machine" known as CompuServe often becomes all but unfathomable because users don't know how to operate the machines sitting on their desks once they're connected to CompuServe.

The fact is that your computer becomes a different kind of animal when it links up with CompuServe. It is no longer operating as a stand-alone machine but rather as a terminal of the CompuServe computer system. And while your machine maintains many of its own functions and features, it shares functions with the extensive CompuServe system. It no longer has a "mind of its own."

That's why most, if not all, new users need help in using this new entity. And that's why getting help in using your specific machine is so vital in making your time on CompuServe efficient and worth the time and money you spend.

Fortunately, there's assistance available. The help is likely definitive for the kind of machine you are using and the terminal program you use to communicate. Some of the most active areas on CompuServe are the computer-specific forums. An early visit to the forum or forums that support your particular computer can help you get in the CompuServe fast lane with fewer hassles.

One of your first online stops should be in the forum that supports your brand of computer. To find the forum or forums where you can get help, type FIND plus the name of your computer at any system prompt. Then press the Return key. The system will search the INDEX program for that computer keyword and will list the places on the system where information about your brand of computer is available. You can go there by typing the GO command for that area, or by selecting the number from the menu that's presented to you.



King Associates

It's possible that you have a computer brand that's not supported by a forum. If so, it's likely your computer is compatible with a brand that is supported. Type FIND and the name of the brand your machine is compatible with and you'll probably find one.

Sometimes you'll get a list of options. For example, if you type FIND IBM, you'll see a selection of forums, including the IBM New Users Forum, the IBM Communications Forum, the IBM Hardware Forum, the IBM Software Forum and perhaps a list of some databases containing information about IBM.

In this case, you would probably want to begin your quest for online assistance by choosing the New Users Forum, but there's no reason why you shouldn't check out all the forums in the list—they all deal with IBM computers.

Once you join a forum, scout the territory by reading some of the bulletins, including the short bulletin, the regular bulletin, the data library bulletin and the sysop roster bulletin. Often these data files can point you to specific areas for help in getting more from your computer and your terminal program on CompuServe.

If you have any specific questions about your machine and how to make it work with CompuServe, don't hesitate to leave a note on the forum message board. When asking a question, however, leave enough information about your system, including the specific computer model, how much memory it has, whether it has a fixed disk, other important variations and peripherals and, most important, the name and version of the terminal program you are using.

Odds are that other forum members have the same configuration and have tackled the problem you are having. And since CompuServe forum members are generally a friendly lot, you're likely to find several who will help you solve your problem and speed you on your way to becoming an expert CompuServe user.

David Peyton co-authored How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe *and* Advanced CompuServe for IBM PC Power Users. *His CompuServe User ID number is 76703,244.*

PSSST!

Get behind the scenes with Monitor's "Behind the Screens" section on *Online Today Electronic Edition*. Find out what's *really* going on. Type GO OLT-130 from any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

ONLINE TODAY

Welcome to the party! The casino is open and no black tie is required. Come on in.

The ball is on the two-yard line and you're calling the signals. Here's the snap.

An electronic message is urging you to grab a handle and head for LooLoo's club. No RSVP is required.

A doorman named Dominic is beckoning you from a TV studio and is challenging you to a /DUEL. Are you game?

Your spaceship is waiting and the sky is the limit. Climb aboard.

ENTERTAINMENT TODAY

All you have to do is lighten up, wind down, tune out, join in and put your ears on. With more than 35 entertainment choices available—from CB to war, adventure, role-playing, sports and board games—the toughest decision is which to sample first.

Thomas Hogan/Photographic Illustrators

"I'm a game fanatic and have been since the Atari 2600 game machine first came out," says Jim Drake, known online as "Joshua." "But here is a chance to play opponents almost anytime I want without having three or four people sitting around the television set waiting their turns. Players are from all over the country, in all kinds of jobs from skilled trades to Ph.D.s to landscapers to dock foremen. They share a common interest and call each other 'friend,' something that would probably never happen without computers and services such as CompuServe." Drake is an avid player of *SeaWAR*, CompuServe's multiplayer ocean combat game.

Game time ranges from three minutes for a quick round of *Baffle* (a stretch-your-vocabulary exercise) to four weeks for a galactic skirmish in *MegaWars III*, a multiplayer planetary management and space conquest game. Some games continue for an infinite amount of time, depending on how often players access them. Some games pit players against the computer while others match players against players. Depending on the contest, skills may be tested or talents may be discovered.

"I had some spare time, so I decided to roam around the Games and Entertainment section (GO GAMES)," recalls William Velanis. "I happened to stop in at *MegaWars I*, a multiplayer space war game in which the goal is to gain control of the galaxy. That's when I found out that I'm a fighter pilot at heart."

No game is designed to be overwhelming, although the level of difficulty varies. A "kickoff page" is posted before the guidelines of each game, which not only lists how many players can simultaneously compete in the contest but also suggests an appropriate minimum age for players. Games are classified as adventure, board/parlor, fantasy/role-playing, simulation/sports, trivia/thought or war game. Special software requirements, such as graphic modes and cursor control, are listed. Cursor control is the ability of the CompuServe computer to position the cursor at a particular point on your screen so that only the parts of the screen that have changed are updated as the game progresses.

Many games have similarities—trivia questions, scrambled words, treasure hunts, hidden pitfalls—but each is unique in its setting, incentives and rules.

"When we look at new games, we look for something that will attract a variety of people," says Cynthia Barker, CompuServe product marketing specialist for games. "People like different forms of entertainment, and we want to offer something for everyone. Certain online games appeal to those who like combat-based play or games, such as *British Legends* and *Island of Kesmai*, that are based on role-playing and adventure."

CompuServe's newest game, *British Legends* is a multi-user, interactive adventure set in a fantasy land of dense forests and mist-swathed graveyards. While playing the game, you can meet other gamers, talk to them, give them

Greg Miller

Offering games for all: *Barker*

treasure, steal it back and even kill or be killed. The ultimate goal is to become a wizard or witch by advancing through points and levels.

"Then we try to offer products the complete opposite from that—board games such as *Interactive Chess*, sports competition such as *Advanced Digital Football* and the multiplayer *Casino Blackjack* game," says Barker.

Players tend to "discover" a game, learn it thoroughly and stay with it. They become restless for the challenge of a new scenario but most of the games are continually evolving, and overseers add twists and turns to keep veteran players entertained.

Barker suggests that a quick way for a newcomer to become acquainted with most of the games is to read the *Games Guide* and the *CompuServe Almanac*, available through the online ordering service (GO ORDER). Another method of surveying the game options is to ask the experts. Posting a message in the Multi-Player Games Forum (GO MPGAMES) will bring instant response and may spark offers for game walkthroughs. Bits of bias may surface, however, as seasoned players talk about their favorite games.

The best game? "*SeaWAR*, of course, or I wouldn't still be playing it after three years," says Chris "Popeye" Daldegan. "*SeaWAR* was designed to be easy for a beginner who is becoming proficient in the basic skills, but it remains difficult for the experienced player to master. The addictive factor for me has been the camaraderie."

"*Air Traffic Controller* is great therapy," says David Splitt, also known as SkyHawk. "It's mind-consuming, never boring and can be played at various levels, depending on what you feel up to at the time. It seems to have infinite variety and requires a combination of skills—visual, memory, strategic and tactile."

"I'd have to say *Island of Kesmai* is the best game," says an incognito diehard named Arcus. "The game serves as an escape, but it works your mind and imagination as well. You also get a great sense of accomplishment from building a powerful character." Arcus usually logs on once a day to play for about an hour. "But I've had some five-hour sessions," he says. "The interactive play definitely adds a lot to a game that you can't get in a solitary adventure. You make a lot of friends."

After a game has been selected, the fun begins. Some games offer special classes for novices through the Multi-Player Games Forum, and intermediate and advanced players conduct field trips through such alien territory as the *Island of Kesmai*. Informal chat sessions, strategy exchanges and forum or in-game conferences are scheduled to acquaint newcomers with the ins, outs and escape hatches of the more intricate games.

"My tips for newcomers would be to visit each game, read the instructions, try out the game, then visit the Multi-Player Games Forum," suggests Joshua. "In the forum you can ask questions and learn from the experienced players."

Two forums are games-related. The first, The Gamers' Forum (GO GAMERS), is broad-based and is dedicated to computer gaming in general. It

Craig Wells

Making the right moves: *Online interactivity hones Saba's chess-playing skills*

covers games played outside the CompuServe environment, games conducted within The Gamers' Forum conference area and message boards, and single-player games offered online. The second, the Multi-Player Games Forum (GO MPGAMES), is geared to online multiplayer games.

"Our message board and data libraries are packed with detailed information about how to succeed in multiplayer gaming," says Patti Fitzgibbons, forum administrator. "You can also read multiplayer gaming news, pick up playing tips and gossip in the multiplayer games columns stored in *The Electronic Gamer* online magazine." (GO TEG)

Formal instructions are available before entering the playing areas and within the texts of the games themselves. Some games (*The Island of Kesmai*, *MegaWars III* and *MegaWars I*) even offer hard-copy guidebooks for those who want to dominate—and not merely dabble in—the competition. Still, much of the expertise is acquired not from books but from the field. Experience is the greatest teacher—either your personal experience or that shared by another player.

"How much interaction you have depends on you," explains Barker. "If you want only brief encounters with other people, that's your choice. A lot of people meet others through the games and become good friends with them. It becomes a social outlet to them. That's one phenomenon of these games. The friendships and the camaraderie you encounter are fascinating. But it's always your choice."

The online interactivity can also hone skills and keep a player in training for outside competition. Dr. Norm Saba discovered chess during his last year in high school, entered tournament play in 1972 and has played about 150 tournament games since that time. He plays on boards, by mail and most recently via computer.

"Chess is one of the few games that can fiercely hold a person's attention—Napoleon once lost a battle because he was totally engrossed in a chess game," says Saba. "When a runner came and gave Napoleon a paper containing a message of an impending attack, he put it in his pocket unread. Once he remembered to take it out, it was too late."

Saba, who is conducting online chess tutorials and helping players become familiar with *Interactive Chess* as part of his game operator duties, hopes that such give-and-take activities will help players avoid checkmates and Waterloos.

Not only do players enjoy their forays through *Castle Telengard*, their rounds of golf with their electronic links, and their treasure hunts through multilevel labyrinths, but they also like to advertise their hobbies on their walls and their shirts. A variety of game goods, including posters, maps, blueprints and T-shirts, can be ordered online. Popular items include T-shirts for *The Island of Kesmai*, *British Legends*, *Blackdragon* and *SeaWAR*; posters for *MegaWars III* and *Island of Kesmai*; and blueprints for *MegaWars I* ships.

Everyone has to have a favorite getaway, and online gamers can go farther than most. Destinations are exciting and so is the company.

"This is where supermarket box boys team up with Wall Street stockbrokers to do battle against the enemy," says *MegaWars I* player Velanis. "So if you're tired of fighting in the board room, or just want to practice some techniques of sneak attack, then join the race for the galaxy."

The sky's the limit.

Holly G. Miller is a free-lance writer and college professor based in Anderson, Ind. She also is a contributing editor of The Saturday Evening Post *and* Indianapolis *magazine. Her CompuServe User ID number is 70007,2345.*

The Electronic Gamer is a trademark owned by Patricia Fitzgibbons.

Out of This World

Games Developers Lead Players into Imaginative Lands

The first time Morpheus (Ben Shih) visited the *Island of Kesmai* (GO ISLAND), he ran into walls, petted the dog, gave away his single gold piece to a beggar and was generally awed by the way people from around the country wandered the ancient catacombs in search of loot.

"The greatest charm of the game for me was the donning of another persona and becoming someone stronger, wiser and richer," he recalls. "Fame, fortune romance, hate and fear—they're all there on the *Island* and are somewhat more attainable in fantasy than in real life."

Morpheus mastered the *Island* to such a degree that the game's developers, Kelton Flinn and John Taylor, asked him to join the staff at Kesmai Corp. The home office proved not to be located on a remote island, but in a renovated dentist's office in Charlottesville, Va., where Kesmai Corp. plans and implements changes to the game.

No dungeons, demons or monsters in the office? "Actually, the place is waist-deep in reference material," says John Taylor, who also co-developed *MegaWars III* (GO MEGA3), another popular multiplayer game on CompuServe.

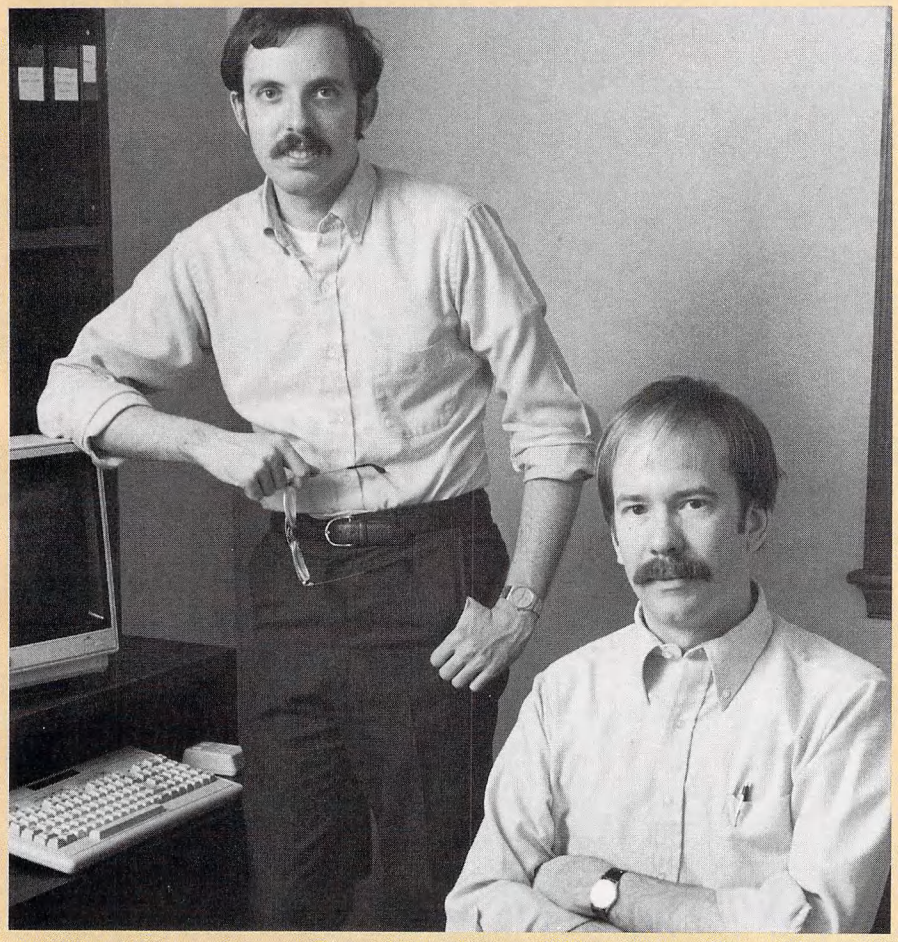
So much for romance.

An ocean away, the brains behind the fantasy role-playing game of *British Legends* (GO LEGENDS) plan harrowing new adventures from the headquarters of MUSE Ltd., outside of London. Across the road is a 13th-century building occupied by the Order of St. John.

"But these days they run a volunteer ambulance service," quips MUSE marketing director Simon Dally. In deference to *British Legends*, he adds, "Their historical origin is the Knights of Malta and the protection they gave to the Crusaders on their way to beat up the infidels."

However ho-hum the home offices may be, *British Legends* is bloody good fun, and players agree that you haven't really lived until you've died in *British Legends*.

"I've learned more about the United Kingdom from the British players than I learned in all of my college courses," says *Legends* player Lorelei (Carol



Challenging fortune-seekers: *Flinn and Taylor developed* Island of Kesmai

Moore). "No special skills are needed, but a sense of logic, imagination and good 'people' skills helps."

If no extraordinary talent is necessary to play interactive fantasy games, much skill was required to create them. Both *Island* and *Legends* were developed on college campuses and underwent years of refinement before they appeared online.

"The *Island* originated at the University of Virginia where Kelton was completing his Ph.D. in mathematics and I was getting my master's in computer science. The game was an escape. It sure beat work," explains Taylor.

The name of *British Legends* was MUD ("Multi-User Dungeon") when it was developed at England's Essex University. Students and local hackers spent so much time playing the game that school officials had to limit computer access hours to the middle of the night.

"It took about five years of working weekends and evenings to get *Legends* to its present state," says co-developer Dr. Richard Bartle, a former Essex lecturer in artificial intelligence, now working for MUSE Ltd. "I expanded the game and introduced the mobile computer-controlled beasties that wander around, spells and a point-scoring mechanism whereby a player could attain the status of a wizard."

Both Bartle and Taylor agree that their number-one goal when developing a game is that it be fun. Survival is the challenge and danger lurks in underground mines, dense forests and fog-bound graveyards.

"We write games so they're fun for us to play," says Taylor. "All of our good players can beat us at our own game because they're so much better at it than we are."

Learning to excel at fantasy games such as *MegaWars III*, *Island* and *Legends* requires time and several field trips into the unknown. Taylor estimates that it takes a player a couple of wars and a lot of dedication to become competent in *MegaWars III*. Organized classes for beginners and an illustrated user's guide help players master the *Island*. Dally urges newcomers to *Legends* to make maps and take exploratory trips without worrying about getting "killed." Lorelei suggests that visitors indulge in some homework before venturing into the treacherous land of *Legends*.

"Capture and print the instructions," says Lorelei. "Map the land and make contact with other novices and warriors. Join the Multi-Player Games Forum (GO MPGAMES) and attend the regularly scheduled *Legends* conferences on Friday nights."

Bartle offers his own perspective. "The game (*Legends*) is not that difficult to learn. People of all different skill levels may reach the wizard status—the highest status in the game."

Proof that success is possible is offered by John Taylor. "Some *Island* characters have been around since Day One, which in the case of the *Island of Kesmai* was Dec. 16, 1985."

People continue to play because of their previous successes. Skill level is not a barrier and neither is gender. Women enjoy the role-playing games and account for nearly half of online *Legends* fans. Common denominators seem to be a sense of humor, imagination and creativity.

"Some people play for the social side and others like the adventure part," says Bartle. "Some like role-playing and some like the anonymity. We've had well-known personalities play without anyone realizing who they are. We've had several physically handicapped players and even a blind chap who uses a Braille teletype when he can't get anyone to read his screen to him. The game can appeal to anyone with a modem and a computer."

Stateside, the *Island* beckons an equally interesting group of adventurers. "We have a fair number of computer professionals playing the game, but we also have doctors, lawyers, psychiatrists, judges, a parachute packer and a rock band manager," says Taylor. "They come from different parts of the country and have traveled to different parts of the world. The *Island* is one thing that they share."

—HGM

You Guessed It!

What Mixes Humor, Trivia and Game Show Fun?

You can tell by his handle that Vic Torious takes his game seriously. Waiting for the next round of *You Guessed It!* (GO YGI), to begin, Torious passes the time by quoting Bobby Fischer's challenge to Boris Spassky.

"I'm in it to make my opponents' egos crumble," said Fischer before the world chess championship.

Ditto, echoes Torious, known offline as Vic Vitek. "I love the competition in *YGI*!, although I feel foolish yelling answers to my teammates on the tube when there's no way they can hear me. I'm hooked."

The time committed is short—about 30 minutes per *YGI*! game—and the attraction is the mix of meeting new friends, trivia, tongue-in-cheek humor and a TV game show scenario. Players gather in the *YGI*! "lobby" and are assigned to teams by Phil Vox, a Don Pardo-like second banana. Opponents then move to "studios" where the *YGI*! "host," Bob Illuminati, fires trivia questions first at a member of one team and then at a member of the other team..

Once an answer has been typed into the computer by a player, it is checked against the Big Board for a match worth one, two or three points. A hit prompts Bob to announce, "You guessed it!" A miss brings an equally enthusiastic, "You glitched it!" CompuServe looked at various game formats and tried to come up with a version that would work on an electronic service. One of the problems the developers faced was, how do you develop a colorful host personality when using only text?

Illuminati emerged as a polyester blend of Ted Baxter, Richard Dawson and Spike Jones ... heavy on plaid, puns and putdowns. Blessed with an overabundance of teeth, he speaks in frequent clichés and bad jokes. His imaginary online support cast includes camerawoman Heidi Overhart, cue-card girl Mary Lou Beltzer and soundman Ron Onomatopoeia. Other studio regulars are Mrs. Lipski, a fictitious groupie who heckles Bob from the second row; young studio executive Biff Twinkle, who minces on and off the set; Dominic the doorman: and Connie LaBomba, who ushers players into the "Lounge" area where they can kibitz about the last game or commiserate.

Not only do *YGI*! participants use handles when they assume the roles of game-show players, they also use their imaginations to mentally flesh out the sketchy cast of characters that permanently resides in the *YGI*! studios.

"My favorite is the announcer, Phil Vox," says Vic Torious. "He has to put up with so much from Bob. Once in a while he comes up with a real zinger at Bob's expense. Phil would never be 'star' material—maybe a character actor from Grade B movies, though. He's got a good voice, but a face that might cause cats to scurry under a doghouse. He dresses conservatively. Sometimes his socks don't match; sometimes his shoes don't match."

Captain Peter Blood, also known as Peter Cohen, prefers the antics of Dominic the doorman. "I picture him as standing at the door, in formal doorman attire, plus mirror shades and a Walkman, listening to the tunes, sipping a cold one (concealed, of course) and just being a cool and competent doorman."

The in-house studio characters don't have any impact on the *YGI*! game, but merely add to the fun and believability of the studio backdrop. While a player ponders an answer, the text might explain that camerawoman Heidi Overhart is zooming in for a closeup of the sweating contestant. Or the marginally musical *YGI*! orchestra might strike up a medley of its greatest hits. During a half-time break in the competition, Phil Vox enters to give the score and a brief intermission so that players can chat.

Newcomers to *YGI*! have several options to learn the game. Topping the *YGI*! menu is the list of instructions, which is a "must" reading. First-hand tips are available from veteran players

who gather in the *YGI*! lobby area before the game and in the lounge area after the game. A novice also can play a one-on-one match by typing /DUEL or can watch a game in progress by typing /VIEW. After a visit or two to the *YGI*! studio, players form friendships and teams evolve.

Players can build a network of friends so they can go into the game, meet, talk, play a couple of rounds and build on the environment. Some people are extremely competitive and others are not. But anyone can play.

Teammates and opponents get to know each other better by reading players' biographies on file (/BIO). Here, too, creativity goes wild: *Gem* checks in and gives her age as 511, and James Kirk beams up from the solar system and Iowa to confirm he's captain of a starship.

'Handles' seem to represent different parts of people's personalities. "The fictitious game show personalities such as Bob Illuminati, Phil Vox, Heidi and Dominic give people the incentive to come up with unique identities of their own.

As friendships bloom, so does curiosity. Groups of *YGI*! enthusiasts have hosted offline gatherings around the country to meet, socialize and match handles with faces. A three-day toga party in Chicago last July drew more than 20 people who, out of habit, greeted each other with typical online dialogue, punctuated by spoken body language:

"Hi! <grin>"

"So you're James Kirk. <wink>"

The *YGI*! lobby was recreated, but this time with live players. Among those assembled for fun and games were Miss B Havin, Smiling Art Fleming, the Duke of Earl and Fleet Admiral Dave.

"It was a blast," recalls Dave. "It was the first time I had met my online friends in person."

In filing a post-party report in the data library, Bond James Bond noted, "From the dazed and confused looks on some faces, it became apparent they found that *YGI*ers are not everyday kind of people: they are definitely unique."

—HGM

CBers Get a Handle on Having Fun

For nearly five years, online party animals have been congregating at LooLoo's place to watch the good times scroll. Weather is no issue, and time doesn't count when interesting people with interesting names—Quasi Modem, Man of la Munchies, Conan the Librarian to name a few—gather for intimate one-on-ones or prime-time free-for-alls.

"For some people, this is total fantasy, but for the majority, the best part is being themselves," says CompuServe product manager Pat Phelps, otherwise known as LooLoo. "I've seen a lot of CBers who were shy and had limited social lives until they started meeting people online. They become curious about meeting their new friends in person and they finally go to a CB party where somebody grabs them and gives them a hug. All of a sudden they're 'party animals.' It draws them out of their shells."

Once the shells have been shed, users appreciate the non-stop nature of the CB simulation (GO CB). The party goes on 'round the clock, in the home or on the town. It's there at 3:00 in the afternoon and is still going strong at 3:00 in the morning. It often extends to local "watering holes" where people dispense with introductions and quickly continue conversations that have been in progress electronically for months.

"CBers take their parties seriously," says LooLoo. "Offline, New York City CBers have a brunch every month; Los Angeles CBers have just started a monthly get-together; the Chicago gang had a couple of socials recently; and those in Orlando have a party coming up. A few people have gotten into the party mood to such an extent that they go to all the activities across the country. One man flies to a party every weekend."

Much of the offline fun is the result of matching handles (names some people choose to go by when they're online) with faces. But the two don't always mesh.

"My favorites are the men with the macho handles who really look like Wally Cox," says LooLoo, occasionally known as Twisted CISter.

CB parties can also be portable. "You can pack up and move from the East Coast to the West Coast and the one consistent thing you're going to have when you relocate will be your online friends," says LooLoo. "They'll ask you, 'How was the trip?' 'Are you settled in yet?' 'How about joining us for coffee next Saturday?' You don't have to establish a whole new set of friends when you move because you're bringing along so many inside your computer."

Len Tavares

Characters kibitz online: *Phelps*

Not all CBers want to party publicly. Some prefer interacting incognito, and they enjoy creating mysterious personas to go with their mysterious handles. They're protective of their online identities and are happy to join the CB Club to reserve an exclusive handle (GO CBCLUB).

"While other people on the system can still claim the handle, they can't duplicate the asterisks that we put on each side of a CB Club member's name," explains LooLoo, club overseer. "The asterisks are kind of like bolts on a vanity license plate. No one can come online and type them as part of their handle except a club member. The Club offers greatly reduced rates at 1200 baud."

Among the perks of online partying is that the guest list isn't dictated by distance or restricted by room. The welcome mat currently stretches as far away as Japan, Australia and South Africa. On a busy night, hundreds of visitors hop channels and continents to swap greetings. The invitation is open-ended: Come as you are, or come as anyone you'd like to be.

—HGM

Concert Beat

RockNet Stays in Tune with Records, Rock Stars

by Sandra Gurvis

In 1984, Les Tracy purchased his first computer. "A friend told me about CompuServe and I became a subscriber," recalls Les, a radio industry veteran who has been a disc jockey for "The Loop" (WLUP) in Chicago, KGB and KPRI in San Diego, and many others. Currently involved in programming, he is operations manager of KSMJ in Sacramento. "I was fascinated with the idea of merging music and microcomputers," he says.

Along with Jim Palozola, a former co-worker from "The Loop" and presently a videotex consultant, Les set up an informal CompuServe bulletin board system to distribute news about rock music. "We put only about five stories a month on the system, but we got nearly 30 calls a day," Tracy says. "Then Jim suggested we pitch the idea of a rock database to CompuServe."

CompuServe agreed and RockNet was established in January 1985, with Les as forum administrator and operations manager and Jim as the service's general manager. RockNet offers news on the rock music industry, an independently compiled list of the nation's top albums, an information service for disc jockeys and radio professionals, and a conference area that is, well ... lively—Rock stars and other big names in the music industry appear "live" online.

Last August, RockNet hosted a three-day party in Citrus Heights, Calif. Nearly 100 people participated in the festivities, which included an all-day party with a band, entertainers and a raft trip down the nearby American River. Tracy hopes to have a reunion every year. "We feel a part of an online community, and it gave us a chance to meet people face-to-face," he says.

Marc Longwood

Spinning discs online: *Tracy*

Despite its seemingly carefree atmosphere, RockNet members take themselves seriously. "We pride ourselves on providing up-to-date, accurate information," says Tracy. Fifteen regular reporters contribute a total of eight to 10 stories a day. Much of the news comes from wire services, radio stations and record companies. Reporters are music and journalism professionals based all over the country.

"Thanks to telecommunications, we can disseminate information faster," says the editor of the rock news section who goes by the handle "Killer Bee." "Because our network is so well organized, we can be more comprehensive, getting stories to subscribers sometimes before they hit other news media."

The service is divided into news and "backstage talk" sections. "Some information may be based on a rumor overheard at a concert," says Tracy. Such a story, which may or may not be true, is placed in the second category.

But users can actually "meet" the people they read about. Stars such as Stacy Q and Barry Manilow and industry giants such as Les Garland, former program director for MTV, have appeared as guests in live conferences. In November, singer/songwriter Del Shannon—who has written music for TV and for Juice Newton—appeared in conference. Lou Gramm from Foreigner; Eric Burdon, founder of the Animals; Paul Kantner, formerly of the Starship and now with the KBC Band; members of Night Ranger and others have also been online. Tracy has more big names lined up but "we don't announce it until just beforehand. Entertainers often work at night (when conferences take place) and other engagements may arise. I won't disappoint subscribers by saying someone will appear until I'm absolutely certain."

Rock stars field online questions about their personal lives, how they got started in the rock music business and who influenced them musically. Says Tracy, "They're more relaxed than during a regular interview because the questions come slowly and we [himself and the star] can chat in between." Out of the glare of the public eye, they can speak candidly.

Even without the aura of Holly-

Marc Longwood

Orchestrating the event: *Les Tracy, Lisa Cheung and Gina King prepare for an online discussion with Del Shannon*

wood, the conference area can be a fascinating place. "Every night, we have CJs (computer jockeys) come online and moderate," says Palozola. "Sometimes discussions get very intense."

One of the CJs, Gina King, spends about 12 hours each week in conference with stars including the Beach Boys and Martha Davis from the Motels. "My goal is to get people's minds going," King says. "I value their opinions and I like hearing their ideas." King says because rock 'n' roll itself can be controversial and rebellious, conferences generate exciting discussions. "Most recently there has been a lot of discussion about censorship," King says. "People get really excited about this issue. They also complain about the lack of creativity in the music business, especially with MTV." RockNet allows subscribers to discuss issues openly. "One of the things people really like about RockNet is its anonymity. They can express their minds before anyone sees them physically," says King.

Topics include censorship in lyrics, an ongoing debate between heavy metal (Dokken, Judas Priest) and mainstream pop (Heart, Eurythmics), and Prince ("People either hate him or love him," explains Tracy). Participants discuss concerts they've seen, new videos, special effects and other happenings in the rock world.

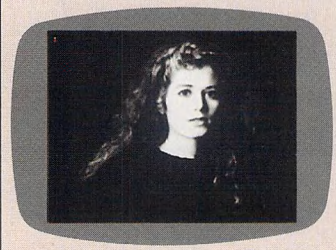
"You get a lot of different opinions," states "Killer Bee," whose negative review of a Grateful Dead concert incited some users. "But that's why we're here: to give an inside look"—not something found in the mainstream.

Although many participants are between 16 and 26 years old, "anyone who enjoys music will feel comfortable here," says Tracy. "Our members like rock in general, so we get all ages and types." Members also include disc jockeys, producers and professional musicians. "They exchange ideas and information among themselves and advise aspiring musicians."

The data libraries contain technical information and cover trends in radio, rock film and video, in addition to oldies and new music. Files of computer music (popular tunes you can hear on your own system) and GIF graphics image files of singers are available. The latter includes nearly 100 pictures of rock stars and album covers, ranging from "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" to Tina Turner and Bon Jovi. "We're on the cutting edge of something new and exciting," says Tracy. "Telecommunications is a wide-open field, and can only become more interactive." So type GO ROCK and see what the noise is all about.

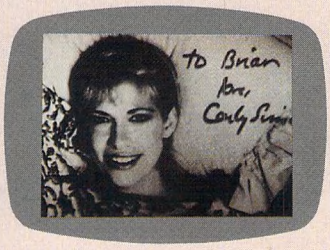
Images from RockNet's GIF Gallery

Nearly 100 GIF graphics images of rock stars and album covers, ranging from Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band to Tina Turner, are available through the RockNet Forum. Type GO ROCK, select the RockNet Forum and access Data Libraries 12 and 13.

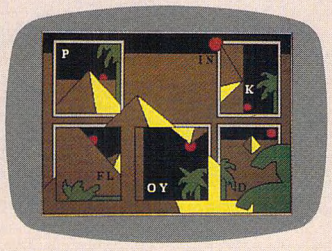


Amy Grant

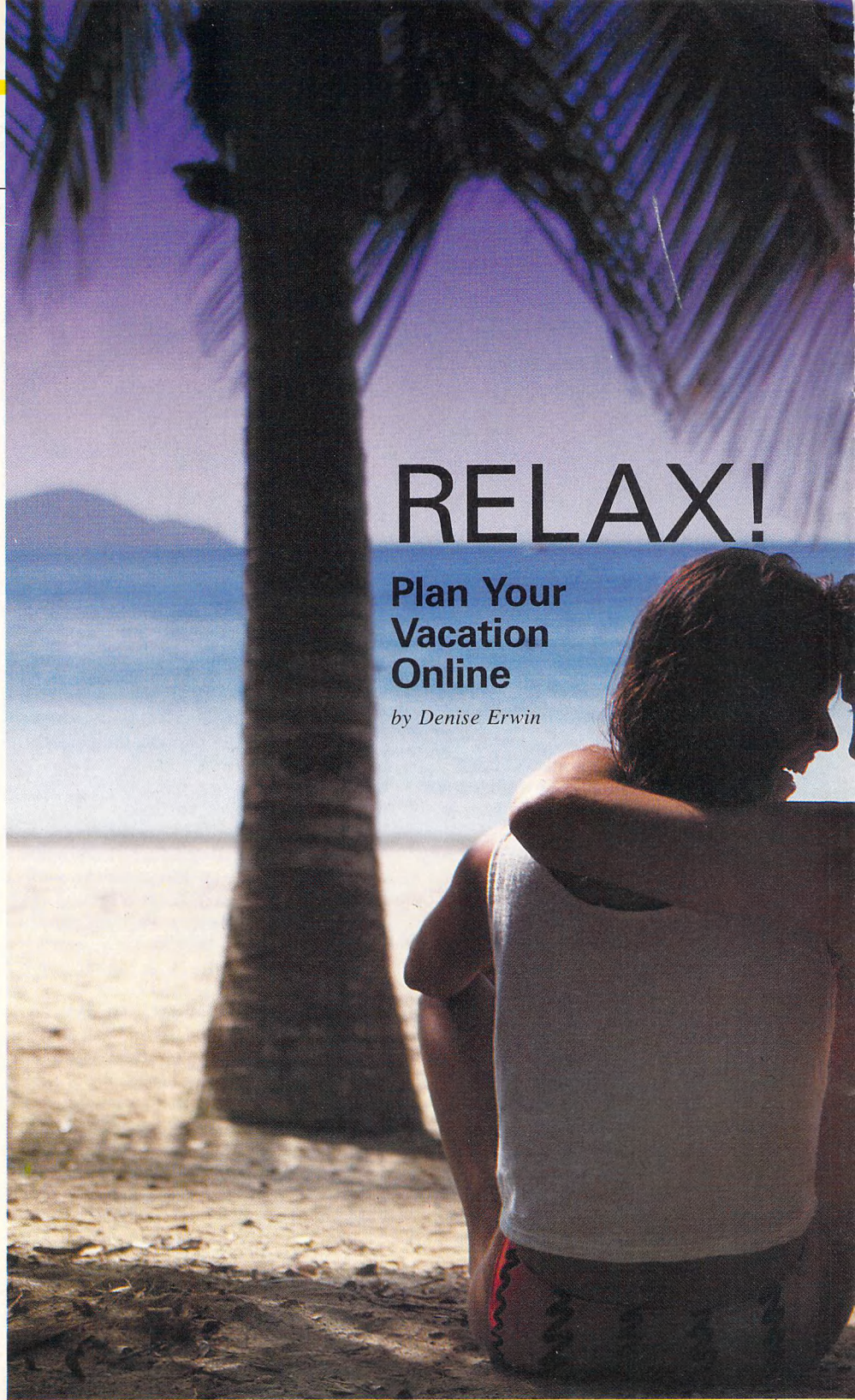
Sgt. Pepper



Carly Simon



Pink Floyd



by Denise Erwin

If you dream of escaping on an exciting Caribbean cruise or relaxing in the paradise of the Hawaiian Isles, look for your fun in the sun online.

Travel packages and activities are offered at reduced rates in Sun 'N Sand Vacations (GO SNS), Rocky Mountain Connections (GO ROCKIES) and Discover Orlando (GO ORLANDO). What's New in Travel (GO WNT) reports additions to travel databases, reduced rates and specials offered for a limited time only by the travel services.

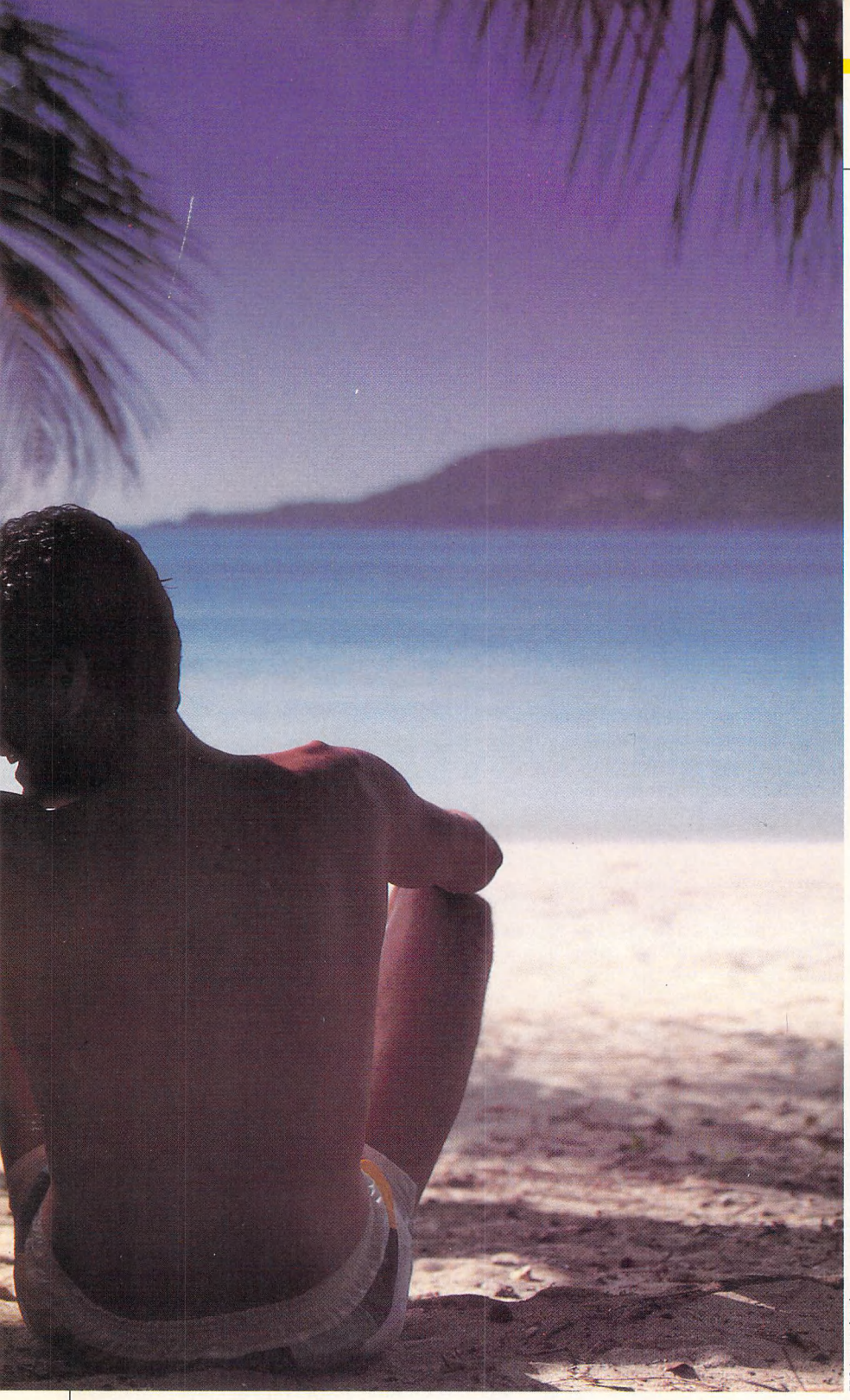
Sun 'N Sand Vacations offers a variety of exciting and exotic travel destinations. Here you can explore your dream vacation. Through the online Reservations and Inquiries Area, you can make reservations or ask questions of travel consultants. There are no additional charges for using Sun 'N Sand Vacations, and several of these packages reflect substantial savings to CompuServe subscribers. Currently, you can select sunny destinations, such as Florida and Hawaii. Or try a cruise.

If you prefer cruising the Atlantic Ocean to cruising Sunset Strip, the Cruise Shop features packages for the Norwegian Caribbean Lines. NCL offers cruises to the Bahamas, the Caribbean and Mexico in one event-filled week aboard the 525-foot, 16,000-ton M/S Skyward. Every Sunday, the M/S Skyward journeys across the Gulf of Mexico to Mayan magic on the Yucatan, docking at the modern resort of Cancun and Spanish Colonial Cozumel, Mexico's major Caribbean island. The resorts are beachcomber paradises of sun, sand, sea and shopping for silver and turquoise. Optional excursions are available to the 2,000-year-old ruins at Chichen Itza, Tulum and Coba, or for snorkeling at the natural aquarium of Xel-Ha.

If the Caribbean sounds great but cruising is questionable, you may want to explore the Official Airline Guides' Thomas Cook vacations (GO OAG) departing from New York and Los Angeles to Hawaii, Mexico, the Caribbean, the South Pacific and Europe. Packages to Mexico for four days include round-trip airfare, airport transfers, accommodations and taxes beginning at $279. Select from a number of hotels in Acapulco, Ixtapa, Cancun or Puerto Vallarta. Or enjoy one of the many Thomas Cook European city packages. For example, the $160 London package includes six days of hotel accommodations, airport transfers, tours, shopping discounts, and hotel service charges and taxes.

Taking advantage of windows of opportunity in the market: *Edwards*

American Express® ADVANCE (GO AXP) offers USA Sun Spots. Choose from four resorts in Arizona, California or South Carolina. Included in the price are two nights' resort accommodations (room with private bath or shower), hotel taxes, half-day guided sightseeing and Worldwide Customer Care—travel assistance in more than 1,400 American Express Travel Agencies. Select a playground for the rich and famous, Palm Springs, where the sun shines 350 days a year. Included is an aerial tram ride and your choice of golf, tennis, swimming and more. Other package destinations include Hilton Head, S.C., and Scottsdale and Tucson, Ariz. American Express vacations also explore South America, Mexico and the Far East.



FPG International

Closer to home, access Discover Orlando (GO ORLANDO) provided by Educational Media Services of Orlando. Explore area attractions, including the Central Florida Zoo, Silver Springs, Weeki Wachee, Cypress Gardens, Church Street Station, Busch Gardens, Boardwalk and Baseball, the Kennedy Space Center, Sea World and the Walt Disney World Resort covering 43 square miles of excitement, amusements and unique vacation experiences. Visit the Magic Kingdom to travel 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea with the Nautilus, twirl in teacups at the Mad Tea Party and ride on Cinderella's Golden Carrousel. Explore Epcot Center and stroll through the future and foreign lands.

To provide subscribers with the most up-to-date information, Walt Disney World information is available in both Discover Orlando and the Florida Forum (GO FLORIDA). Disney prices are listed in the forum's Data Library 13 in the textfile PRICES.TXT. Florida Forum members also receive Hale Irwin's Golfer's Passport at a discounted price. For a membership fee, you can play all the golf courses listed without paying greens fees. In addition, some of the finest golf resorts offer substantial discounts to Passport members who enjoy the golden sun on the greens.

If creating a Hawaiian holiday sounds even more colorful, access The Hawaiian Concierge (GO HAWAII). The Concierge is able to negotiate favorable rates on land and sea tours, and you benefit from the extensive network of tour contacts that has been developed over the last 30 years. Arrive in paradise to begin a 13-day tour of five islands. If you fly United Airlines, you will be whisked away in your limousine to the Royal Hawaiian Hotel where you will meet your tour director. Enjoy a beachside breakfast on the terrace of the Surf Room and later tour the Arizona Memorial and the International Marketplace. Drive into the Tantalus Rainforest overlooking Honolulu, Waikiki and the Pacific. Tour Iao Valley, Yosemite of the Pacific, and moon-watch at the beautiful Hanauma Bay. Last, visit Maui, Kona and Kauai, ending your stay at Oahu. Aloha!

The Concierge also offers world tours to Japan, China, Asia, South America and the South Pacific. Why not wander the South Pacific for 20 days on a panorama tour of Australia and New Zealand. On arrival in Sydney, Australia, take in a full day "Waltzing Matilda" tour, stopping for lunch at a nearby Australian Sheep Station. Later tour Melbourne, Christchurch, Queenstown and Greymouth, climbing over the Southern Alps via the magnificent Arthur's Pass. There will be plenty of sun and fun as you continue to drive via the shores of Lakes Wakatipu, Manapouri and Te Anau to Milford Sound.

To plan your fun in the sun winter vacation, explore CompuServe's various destination packages, comparison shopping and reservations capabilities online. Use the forums to communicate with forum administrators, information providers and other CompuServe subscribers. GO TRAVEL

Denise Erwin is assistant editor of Online Today. *Her CompuServe User ID number is 70003,3246.*

Fun in Florida

Disney World, Orlando Area Attractions Appeal to Visitors

by Brian D. Monahan

If you have never been to Walt Disney World, I guarantee the experience will be better than you expected.

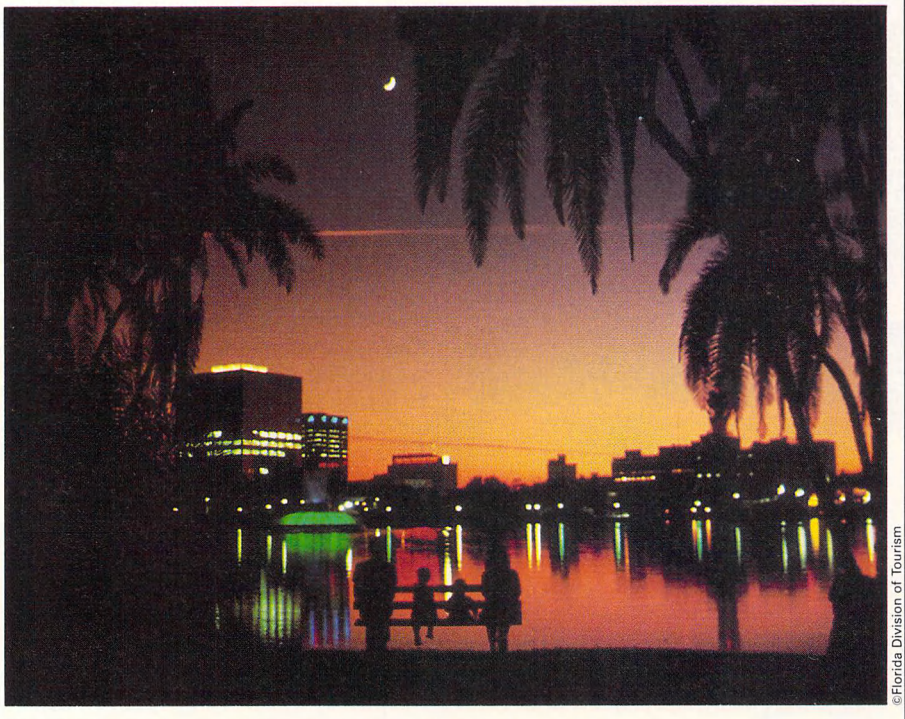
Not many people realize that Disney World is actually two parks: the Magic Kingdom and Epcot Center. The Magic Kingdom is the home of the world-renowned Disney characters. Epcot Center is a look at the world of tomorrow. It is an exciting, yet sobering view, as we are reminded that technological advances cannot replace our natural resources or common sense. Children and adults will be fascinated by both parks. Plan to spend three or four days in the parks to fully appreciate their values.

Getting There

Disney World is accessible by car, train and air. Amtrak offers daily service from New York with stops along the way. The nation's two major bus lines, Greyhound and Trailways, offer service to Orlando from a variety of points across the country. The airlines offer numerous packages to Disney World; some are through travel agents. Liberty Travel offers a three-night package that includes round-trip airfare, a car and accommodations. Prices range from $259 to $279. Delta Airlines offers a three-day package that also includes three days' admission to all Disney attractions and accommodations on the resort property. Prices range from $299 to $544. For the more adventurous, Premier Cruise Lines combines a four-night cruise to the Bahamas with three nights at Disney World. Prices start at $495.

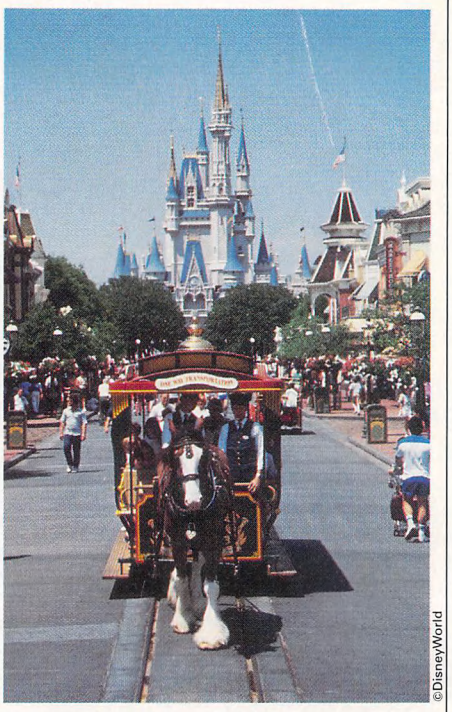
Where to Stay

There is certainly no shortage of accommodations in the Orlando area. If you plan far enough in advance, you can stay on the grounds of Disney World. If you want to keep your costs down, consider staying in one of the moderately priced hotels and motels in the Orlando area. Information on accommodations in the park is available by calling 305/824-8000. You can also book some accommodations from the comfort of your home by using CompuServe. Type GO ORLANDO at any CompuServe Information Service prompt. Browse through available accommodations, ask questions and make reservations online. While making your online reservations, include any options, such as a rental car or even attraction tickets.



©Florida Division of Tourism

Enchanted evening: *Visitors view Lake Eola in Orlando, Fla.*



©DisneyWorld

Seeing the sights: *Trolley leaves Cinderella's Castle on Main Street USA*

Planning Your Days

The Magic Kingdom and Epcot Center are connected by a high-speed monorail. Upon entering the Magic Kingdom, you arrive at Main Street, which leads to Cinderella's Castle. From the Castle, travel to Adventureland, Frontierland, Fantasyland or Tomorrowland.

Epcot Center is divided into Future World and the World Showcase of Nations. Although everything is well marked, you won't want to be without a map. Maps are available throughout the parks. A guidebook, such as Steven Birnbaum's *Walt Disney World*—the official guide to the Magic Kingdom and Epcot Center—is a good idea too.

Disney World is the most popular man-made resort on the globe. On a slow day, Disney World accommodates 25,000 visitors. On a busy day, as many as 125,000 pass through the gates. But even on the busiest days, there is never a sense that things are out of control. There is not the pushing and shoving that one might expect, the areas in which one queues for rides are clearly marked, the lines move, and signs are posted for the popular attractions with messages such as "Forty-five minute

wait from this point.''

It is possible to reduce some of the time that you will wait in line by arriving at the park early. Get to the parking lot at least an hour before the stated opening time. Buy your ticket and, if you are going to the Magic Kingdom instead of Epcot Center, take the monorail. Main Street USA opens an hour before the rest of the park, so you can tour Main Street and head for the other attractions as soon as the rest of the park opens. A similar strategy will work at Epcot Center. Arrive early at the WorldKey Information System monitors where you can make reservations for dinner that evening at one of the World Showcase restaurants.

©DisneyWorld

That's Italian: *Enjoy Epcot's World Showcase of Nations restaurants*

Don't Miss

All Disney World visitors have a select list of attractions not to be missed, but you cannot leave without having a meal at one of the restaurants in Epcot's World Showcase of Nations. Try France or Italy. Then take a ride past hundreds of tiny singing dolls dressed in the folk costumes of various nations in ''It's a Small World.'' Or take a spin on Space Mountain, a truly frightening roller coaster ride, the thrill of which comes not so much from speed as most of the ride takes place in darkness.

©Florida Division of Tourism

Picture perfect: *Photographers and gardeners tour Cypress Gardens by boat*

Around Orlando

Central Florida offers more than Walt Disney World. The second most popular attraction is nearby Sea World, the largest marine-life theme park in the world. Sea World offers 15 different shows, including a performance by Sharma, an 8,000-pound killer whale. Another attraction, Wet 'N Wild, takes you down water slides and throws you into other aqua entertainment.

Also John F. Kennedy Space Center is an easy day trip from Orlando (about a 90-minute drive). In about the same amount of time you can reach Cypress Gardens, a site that no photographer or gardener will want to miss. Cypress Gardens offers its famous precision water skiing shows and several other regular performances.

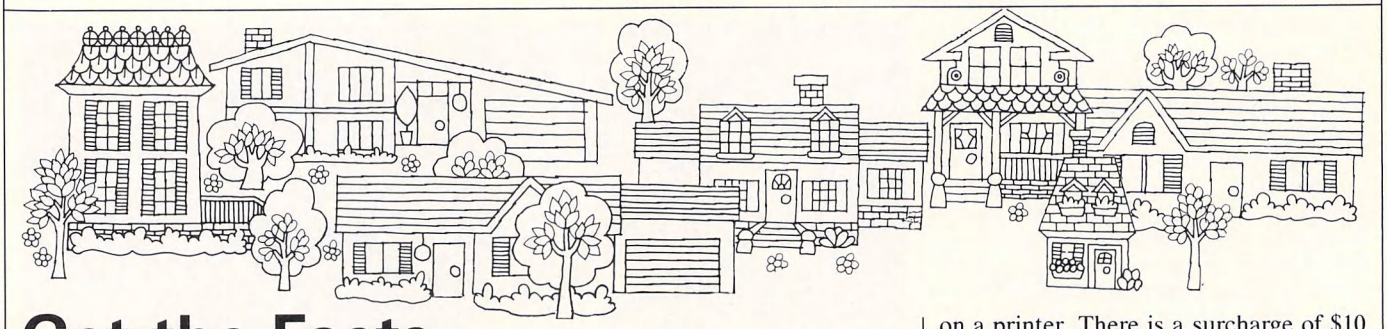
In Orlando, visitors can take in Winter Park, an area in the heart of Orlando with four or five blocks of designer stores, quaint restaurants and exclusive homes. In addition, visitors can attend the Orlando Symphony and Opera or visit the zoo located in Sanford. Orlando is also known for its world-class hotels, such as the Grand Cypress Hyatt Regency, and for its championship golf tournaments, such as the Bry Hill Classic and the Disney Classic. A boat tour cruises through a chain of lakes, taking visitors past the grand mansions overlooking the water.

Getting Help from CompuServe

There are several places to get information about Walt Disney World and the Orlando area; however, CompuServe is one of the best. The previously mentioned GO ORLANDO command is useful for finding out information. By typing GO FLORIDA at any CompuServe Information Service prompt, you will arrive in the Florida Forum. Here, Data Library 13 is devoted to information about Walt Disney World. For example, it contains a file called PRICES.TXT that gives the various admission charges for both the Magic Kingdom and Epcot Center. This up-to-date information helps you get the best value for your money.

If you have a specific question about the Magic Kingdom or Epcot Center, you will find an answer by leaving a message in the Florida Forum. Don't be nervous if you are a new forum user. Those who use this forum are extremely helpful. The Florida Forum is as laid-back as the vacation state itself. So why not GO FLORIDA?

Brian D. Monahan is an associate professor and coordinator of graduate programs in the computer science department at Iona College. New Rochelle, N.Y. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,3000.



Get the Facts

Detailed Demographic Data Can Help Consumers Make Decisions

by Cathryn Conroy

When my sister called me this fall to say she was moving to a small town in North Carolina, she admitted she knew little more about the place than its location.

A trip to the computer keyboard and CompuServe's online demographic information answered a lot of questions, including some no one had thought to ask. We found out, for instance, that the average age in this town of just under 22,000 is 37, most of the homes were built after 1950, most people earn less than $25,000, yet nearly three-fourths own their own homes. In addition, people tend to be more involved in their churches than in the government, and gardening and fishing equipment are popular gift ideas in this town where leisure time is often spent hunting, fishing and camping.

Using demographic databases for sophisticated research is no longer the sole domain of statisticians. Through CompuServe's Neighborhood Report, US-State-County Reports, SUPERSITE and CENDATA, anyone can enjoy the privilege of current, detailed demographic data.

Each database contains statistics from the average age and income of a certain area to the sports activities its citizens most enjoy. They are easy to use; however, selecting the best database for your requirements is important. There are many uses you can make of this mountain of information, but following are a few examples of how the statistics can be applied to some common situations.

Finding the perfect buyer

Selling a house is always a lot of work and usually a bit of trouble. Vacating the premises for hours on a Sunday afternoon so strangers can roam through your home, keeping the house clean and worrying whether or not you will get the price you want are just some of the concerns. Quickly finding a buyer can cut down on those worries. One way to do that is to offer prospective buyers solid information on the neighborhood—information they may not be able to find elsewhere.

Using The Neighborhood Report (GO NEIGHBORHOOD), produced by CACI Inc., you can provide prospective buyers the average age as well as age groups in your area, household income, the number of families and singles, the number of homeowners and the number of professionals in the neighborhood. And that is only the beginning.

You can tell them the general level of civic involvement in the community. For instance, by using the Neighborhood Civic Reports, you can show the tendency to contribute to the local public television station, to vote in state and federal elections, and to participate on the school board, hospital board or church board. You can present the facts and figures on the neighbors' tendencies to write to an elected official, to work for a party candidate or to visit a public official.

Emerging entrepreneurs will find The Neighborhood Report useful as well. The Neighborhood Sports/Leisure Activities Report lists activities most enjoyed in a region. If you want to open a sporting goods store, for instance, you can learn if the local fans prefer football over hockey or bowling over scuba diving. More important, you may discover people would rather collect coins than invest in their athletic prowess, and thus spare yourself lost time and capital.

The Neighborhood Report is accessed by typing in the ZIP code at the prompt and selecting the desired reports. Information can be captured on a printer. There is a surcharge of $10 for each report.

Comparison shopping

Making decisions on where to live can be tough. Say you are moving to the Washington, D.C., area and you need to decide if you want to live in the District or in a nearby town in Maryland or Virginia. Without making several harrowing trips around the beltway, you can get the big picture from CACI's US-State-County Reports (GO USSTCN).

Providing demographics for the entire United States as well as any state or county, the US-State-County Reports list an area's total population, age groups, average household income, types of households (singles or families), number who own or rent, the average home value and more.

The uses for such information are endless. College seniors choosing between two jobs in different parts of the country can make more informed decisions. Entrepreneurs thinking of expansion into an adjacent county can determine whether the rural county to the north or the more urban county to the west is better suited for their business.

Details, details

To get the most detailed demographic information available on CompuServe, type GO SUPERSITE. Produced by CACI Inc., SUPERSITE information is available for the entire United States as well as every state, county, Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA), Arbitron TV market, Nielson TV market, census-designated place, census tract, Minor Civil Division and ZIP code in the country.

The demographic reports provide information on income, housing, education, employment for 1987 and 1992 forecasts. Sales potential reports for major retail stores are also provided.

SUPERSITE is best used by the entrepreneur who wants detailed, specific information. SUPERSITE can help determine whether a location at Broad St. and Main St. would be better

than one at Oak Ave. and Elm Court. By inserting the latitude and longitude of the target area, detailed information is provided on just that spot of the world. (CACI will compute the latitude and longitude for you for a charge of $10 or you can do it yourself with maps from the Census Bureau or US Geological Survey.)

In addition, ACORN Target Marketing profiles and potentials are available. ACORN classifies all US households into one of 44 market segments based upon the demographic, socioeconomic and housing characteristics of the neighborhood. Linked to direct mail lists, ACORN enables a business to precisely target its customers and prospects and use its advertising dollars more effectively.

Each SUPERSITE report carries a surcharge ranging from $20 to $100. This service is available only to subscribers with the Executive Option.

Uncle Sam's statistics

Investors who want to know the balance of trade before it hits the evening papers and the store owner who wants to know how his competition fared three years ago can find this information and more in the new CENDATA (GO CENDATA) database produced by the Census Bureau.

Investors needing crucial economic indicators quickly will find CENDATA indispensable. Sensitive numbers indicating the value of manufacturers' shipments, retail trade sales, housing starts and the consumer price index are available in CENDATA about one hour after the Census Bureau is permitted to release them. Many members of the press rely on CENDATA for their information.

National as well as state and local data are available on everything from population to business to agriculture to manufacturing. Even information on flour milling products and the industrial gas industry is available from CENDATA, where reliable, detailed, statistical information is ready and online when you need it. GO DEM

Cathryn Conroy, a contributing editor of Online Today, *is based in Gaithersburg, Md. Her CompuServe User ID number is 70007,417.*

In The News

Easier Access, More Choice and Depth Added to Online News

During 1987, CompuServe implemented several unique news products, adding more information, power and value. Access to these products is now quick and easy. In addition, all of the news sources are easier to find as many of them have been moved from submenus to the top news menu.

Several of the new products and news menus are highlighted below. Starting at the top—top news menu, that is:

```
NEWS
 1 Executive News Service (E$)
 2 NewsGrid
 3 AP Online
 4 Weather
 5 Sports
 6 OTC NewsAlert
 7 The Business Wire
 8 St. Louis Post Dispatch
 9 Entertainment News/Info
10 Online Today
11 Election '88
```

The Executive News Service has moved to the top of the menu. NewsGrid, a new product featuring headline news and keyword search follows. The more general AP Online (formerly AP Videotex) is next. No changes have been made in the Weather, Sports, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Online Today* or the specialized financial news databases, OTC NewsAlert and The Business Wire. RockNet and Hollywood Hotline are accessible through Entertainment News/Info. Finally, the biggest news of the year is the Election '88 database.

Election '88 features a series of new products to provide subscribers with complete coverage of the 1988 presidential campaigns and election. Subscribers can also express opinions directly to the candidates' organizations or through polls. Information will be provided by campaign headquarters, the Associated Press and the American Political Network (an organization that features commentaries by prestigious "insider" analysts, and press releases from the campaigns).

Three new financial wires have been added to the Executive News Service. These include OTC NewsAlert, Reuters Financial Report and McGraw-Hill News. To eliminate a step when creating clipping folders or accessing current or late-breaking news, wirecodes and categories have been combined. State wires are no longer available. Current selections are shown here.

```
EXECUTIVE NEWS SERVICE WIRES
APN—AP (domestic, regional, Washington,
       international, commentary, general)
APS—AP (sports)
APF—AP (financial)
RT —Reuters (financial)
MH —McGraw-Hill (financial)
OT —OTC NewsAlert (financial)
WP —The Washington Post (Washington,
       domestic, international, commentary)
```

For anyone interested in general news, NewsGrid offers a comprehensive yet concise source created from several leading newswires. NewsGrid features up-to-the-minute headlines, keyword searching capabilities and complete news of the day without duplicate stories.

```
NEWSGRID
 1 US Headlines
 2 Business Headlines
 3 International Headlines
 4 Market Update
 5 Search by Keyword
 6 How to Use NewsGrid
```

For sports enthusiasts, the best source of sports news (aside from the Executive News Service) is the top news menu. This menu will lead to the AP Sports from the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* as shown here.

```
SPORTS
            Nat'l  Amer.  Coll.  Other
Baseball      1      2      3      4
Football      5             6      7
Basketball    8             9     10
Hockey       11            12     13

14—Other Sports Stories
```

To access these news databases, type GO NEWS at any CompuServe Information Service prompt.

College-bound Students Make Plans Online

by Matthew Burns

If you or someone in your family plans to attend college in the next year or two, Peterson's College Database can help you pinpoint a specific college and gather information quickly and easily.

Peterson's College Database contains detailed descriptions of more than 3,200 accredited or approved US and Canadian colleges that grant associate and/or bachelor's degrees.

The College Database offers the same information found in two separate reference guides: *Peterson's Guide to Four-year Colleges 1988* and *Peterson's Guide to Two-year Colleges*.

As a reference tool, you can use the College Database to find information about a specific college. As a research aid, you can scan the database for colleges matching criteria you specify.

To access Peterson's College Database, type GO PETERSON at any prompt. CompuServe then takes you to this menu:

```
PETERSON'S COLLEGE DATABASE
1 Introduction
2 How to Search the Database
3 Search by College Features ($)
4 Search by College Name/Location ($)
5 Feedback to Peterson's
Enter choice !
```

Options 1 and 2 offer helpful background information about the database and tips on searching the database.

As elsewhere on the Information Service, the dollar signs ($) following Option 3 and Option 4 indicate that there is a surcharge for searching the database. CompuServe displays the amount of the surcharge before you enter the database.

Options 3 and 4 offer two ways of using the College Database.

Option 4 gives you direct access to in-depth college profiles. You provide the name of a college, or the name of a city or state. CompuServe then displays a profile matching the college you specified, or a menu of profiles belonging to colleges in the city or state that you specified.

Option 3 enables you to search the entire database. CompuServe finds colleges matching the search criteria you specify. You can then review the descriptive profiles associated with these colleges.

Let's say you select Option 3. CompuServe then displays this menu:

```
COLLEGE FEATURE MENU
How would you like to search?
 1 Location
 2 Coed/Single Sex
 3 Size
 4 Level of Study
 5 Public/Private
 6 Campus Setting
 7 Entrance Difficulty
 8 Majors
 9 Sports
10 Housing
11 Costs
12 Special Programs
13 Freshman Data/Enrollment Patterns
14 Ethnic/Geographic Mix
15 Admissions Requirements
16 Application Deadlines
Last menu page, enter choice !
```

These College Features give you access to additional menus of search criteria--more than 500 criteria in all.

Suppose, for example, you want to attend a four-year college. To begin your search, select College Feature 4. After you do this, CompuServe displays the following menu:

```
1 Two-year college
2 Four-year college with no graduate work
3 University or four-year college with graduate work
4 Upper-level institution (starts at the junior year—no freshmen or sophomores)
Enter choice !
```

Say you select College Feature 3 from this menu. CompuServe then takes a few moments to find which of the more than 3,200 colleges are four-year colleges offering graduate-level study.

CompuServe places the descriptions of these colleges in what is called your current selection set.

If more than 200 such colleges match your criteria, CompuServe asks you to narrow your current selection set of colleges.

```
What would you like to do?
1 Narrow by features
2 Narrow by name/location
Enter choice !
```

If CompuServe finds less than 200 colleges meeting your criteria, this menu appears on your screen:

```
What would you like to do now?
1 DISPLAY colleges
2 NARROW by features
3 NARROW by name/location
4 BROADEN by features
5 BROADEN by name/location
6 BEGIN new search by college features
7 BEGIN new search by college name/location
8 RESTORE previous selection
Enter choice !
```

Here you can display a menu containing the names of colleges in your current selection set. Or you can narrow or broaden your search, or begin a new search.

Option 8 enables you to "undo" your last step. If, for example, you specified a search criteria that made your selection set too large or too small, Option 8 in effect cancels that step and restores your selection set to the way it was before you entered your last search criteria.

Option 1 returns you to the College Feature menus. Option 2 takes you to the following menu:

```
How would you like to search?
1 College name
2 City
3 State
Last menu page, enter choice !
```

Don't be concerned if you see this menu or the menu of college features several times in the same session. CompuServe displays one of the two menus each time you choose to narrow or broaden your current selection set.

If you choose to search by name of college, city or state, enter only as much of the name as you're certain is spelled correctly. Since CompuServe searches for matches that begin with your exact entry, any misspelling will thwart your search.

You can continue to narrow or broaden your selection set until all your criteria are met, or until your selection set is at a size you feel comfortable viewing.

Once CompuServe displays a menu of college names, simply select a college. CompuServe then displays an in-depth profile of that college.

Each college profile provides the full name and address of the college, and statistics on previous freshman classes, including SAT and ACT test scores.

In addition, each profile provides information about a college's expenses and financial aid, special programs (such as honors programs and remedial programs), athletics, housing, majors, and the name and phone number of a person you can contact for more information about that college.

Matthew Burns is an associate technical writer at CompuServe. His CompuServe User ID number is 76003,660.

New Forum Files: From Star Gazing to Word Processing

The data libraries in CompuServe's forums are filled with thousands of programs and textfiles. The following are a few of the files uploaded to the data libraries in recent months. For a more up-to-date list of uploads, check the "Uploads" columns in *Online Today Electronic Edition* by typing GO OLT-3700 at any CompuServe Information Service prompt. New columns are added twice monthly.

AMIGAFORUM
(GO AMIGAFORUM)

Sprite Editor—Spritemaster, a sprite editor that supports many features, including the animation of a sequence of sprites. File SPMAST.ARC in Data Library 16.

In the Cards—A Gypsy fortune-telling program that uses the ancient method of reading the tarot cards. File GYPSY.ARC in Data Library 7.

Library Cataloger—An initial library catalog system for disk files for the Amiga. Features file and disk comparisons, "don't care" file filters and Superbase compatibility. File WCAT.ARC in Data Library 8.

Word Processor—A public-domain, full-featured word processor for the Amiga by RTL Programming Aids. File WW.ARC in Data Library 8.

Disk Lister—DIRWIN 1.0, a program that opens a window, allowing you to insert your disk into Drive 0 and display the directories on that disk. You can list your disks this way until you select the WindowClose gadget. File DIRWIN.ARC in Data Library 9.

ASTRONOMY FORUM
(GO ASTROFORUM)

Starwatch Activity—A description of an educational activity that has been used successfully at public starwatches. It involves construction of a scale model solar system in which both the sizes of the planets and the spaces between them are to scale. File EARTHP.TXT in Data Library 4.

BROADCAST PROFESSIONAL FORUM
(GO BPFORUM)

DJ Scripts—Did you ever wonder where radio disc jockeys get the snappy material they use to fill the time between records? Many of them get it from Jay Trachman who publishes a weekly service for DJs called One-To-One. To see the latest editions of One-To-One type BRO ?1-2-1.TXT at the DL5 prompt.

COMMODORE MUSIC, GRAPHICS AND GAMES FORUM
(GO CBMART)

Murder Mystery—A self-dissolving ARC version of a murder mystery. Includes documentation and hints. File CATSDA.IMG in Data Library 9.

String Art—A file for the Commodore 128 only that displays repeating, but not repetitive, string art patterns that will flex or warp while being drawn. Good for dynamic art at a party. File STRING.BIN in Data Library 10.

Beethoven—Seven SidPlayer music pieces featuring the works of Beethoven. File SEVEN.IMG in Data Library 2.

CROSSTALK FORUM
(GO XTALK)

Crosstalk Script—A new script file to help Crosstalk Mk.4 users download files from their favorite CompuServe forum data libraries. The script allows the user to navigate to a specific forum, go to any data library in the forum and download all the files in that library that have not already been downloaded. File CISDRA.XTC in Data Library 4.

IBM SOFTWARE FORUM
(GO IBMSW)

Color Files—A series of short batch files that use ANSI.SYS to change the color of your EGA or CGA monitor's display. You type the color name and the batch file will change the color on a black background and clear the screen. File COLORB.ARC in Data Library 1.

IBM NEW USERS FORUM
(GO IBMNEW)

Bugle Calls—a BASIC program that plays 20 different bugle calls on your IBM PC. The calls are authentic and courtesy of the US Navy Band in Washington, D.C. File PCBUGL.BAS in Data Library 4.

MAUG APPLE II/III FORUM
(GO APPLE)

DOS Partition—DOS MASTER, a system to set up a DOS 3.3 partition on ProDOS volumes such as on hard disks and or 3.5 disks. File DOS33.BNY in Data Library 1.

Algebra Tutor—A game written in BASIC and intended to provide practice for beginning algebra students in solving equations. It's modeled after the television game "Concentration." File ALGCON.TXT in Data Library 1.

Sub Attack—An Apple IIgs arcade game in which you blow up attacking submarines. Written in APW C. File SUBGAM.BNY in Data Library 6.

Apple Newsletter—*Tech Tidbits*, a weekly newsletter published by Apple East Coast Technical Support. To see the files, type BRO/KEY: TIDBITS at the Data Library 9 prompt.

Slot Machine—An all-text semi-bogus slot machine that takes bets, pays off odds and more. Written in AppleSoft BASIC. File SLOT.TXT in Data Library 12.

MAUG MAC USERS FORUM
(GO MACUS)

Time Talk—Three FKEYS that speak either the time, date or both. Compatible with all Macs. You need MacinTalk to run. File ORATOR.* in Data Library 2.

Accounting Aid—Free-lance Income Tracker, a HyperCard application that allows the user to sort by date and keep a running total. File FRELNC.PIT in Data Library 8.

Wallet on Disk—HyperWallet, a HyperCard stack to store credit card and ID information, including Lost/Inquiry phone numbers and hidden fields for secret passwords. Makes a card index in scrolling window. File WALLET.PIT in Data Library 8.

MODEL 100 FORUM
(GO M100SIG)

Graph Maker—A program to create bar charts on your Model 100 or 102 that creates bar charts from your input and prints results to a Gemini or Epson dot-matrix printer. Files GRAF.100 and GRAF.DOC in Data Library 4.

Print Formatter—A simple print formatter for Models 100, 102 and 200, written in BASIC, which allows proportional spacing and proportional letters for true typeset-looking justification. Files PROPRT.BAS and PROPRT.DOC in Data Library 2.

David Peyton co-authored How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe *and* Advanced CompuServe for IBM PC Power Users. *His CompuServe User ID number is 76703,244.*

Turn the Electronic Page for More Reviews

You'll find dozens of new software reviews in *Online Today Electronic Edition*. GO OLT-230 and choose this month's reviews from the main menu.

ONLINE TODAY

YOU GUESSED IT!
* * * * * * * * * * * * *
Name a loquacious celebrity with a large toupee.
1. Howard Cosell 3 pts.
2. Willard Scott 2 pts.
3. Bob Illuminati 1 pts.
HI! I'm Bob
FUNBAG
HONKER
RAMBO
CHEEZWIZ
CREATIVE COMPUCASTING CO.
It's a Game Show! It's a Battle of Wits! It's a Breath Mint! It's more fun than a Barrel of Polkas! It's You Guessed It! ~with your host, Bob Illuminati! To meet new friends, score big points, and Discover the Meaning of Human Existence, GO YGI!
*Not recommended for infants, stuffed shirts, or plaid sensitive individuals

You Guessed It!™ is a service of CompuServe, Incorporated.

Go Mall

A GUIDE TO COMPUSERVE'S ELECTRONIC MALL® JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1988

Red carpet rolls for new merchants.
Welcome Petworks, The Chocolate Software Company, Moment's Notice, and R+R Direct.

Mall shopper's number was up.
Couple wins trip to Paris, compliments of Air France.

Shop the way to better health.
Gift selections burn holiday calories, cure winter blahs.

Mall Mania features five major Mall events.

- First Baby Contest ... prizes for 1988's first arrival.
- Valentine's Day shopper's guide ... romance lives.
- Mall auctions ... new features, great values.
- Sidewalk sales ... bargains curb-to-curb.
- TaxTime at The Mall ... simplification support.

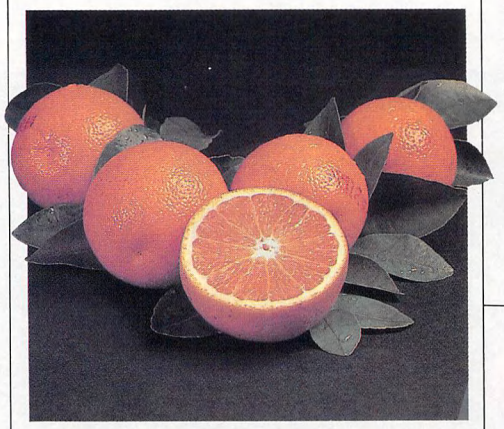
THE ELECTRONIC MALL®

GOINGS ON

A taste of Florida's finest.

During winter months Florida's fruit is at the peak of its season. This year's bumper fruit crop means a special offer for you.

Beginning Jan. 1, any order of $35 or more at Florida Fruit Shippers' Mall store will include a free, generous sampling of Florida's finest oranges and grapefruit, a $16.95 value. If you haven't discovered Florida Fruit Shippers, now is the time.



Select from scintillating citrus offerings, such as Ruby Red seedless grapefruit, White Marsh grapefruit and rare Duncan grapefruit. Or try Honeybell tangelos, a luscious grapefruit-tangerine hybrid.

Enamor a long-distance love with a deluxe gift pack—such as The Paradise Pack or The Champagne Hamper filled with fancy fruit. Or splurge on succulent fresh Florida seafood, including giant stone crab claws and Florida lobster tails.

To receive your free quarter-bushel of oranges and grapefruit, simply place any order for $35 or more. Offer valid through Jan. 31. GO FFS

Save on computer supplies.

During January, The Stationery Center offers you great savings on computer supplies and accessories.

Sale items include anti-static products, printer ribbons, personal computer tool kits, diskettes and more. Request a free copy of the four-page color flyer featuring nearly 100 items discounted during January. GO SC

DEAR SHOPPER

Dear Shopper,

When I was a child, the newspaper in our small town sponsored a "First Baby" contest every New Year's. This year at The Mall, we're bringing you the first "First Baby of 1988" contest. The first baby born to a CompuServe couple in 1988—while arriving too late to qualify as a tax deduction for 1987—will win a cornucopia of prizes donated by Mall merchants. The lucky child will net a catch that includes everything from a flying Bunny Bee to a Baby's First-Year Calendar ... more than a dozen gifts to welcome a new future CompuServe subscriber and Mall shopper to the world!

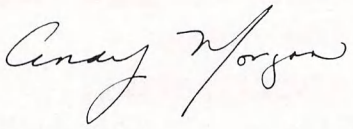
Speaking of taxes, The Mall has also put together a special TaxTime database. It's chock-full of news on tax and investment software, books, record-keeping supplies for the new year, investment opportunities and tax-time tips.

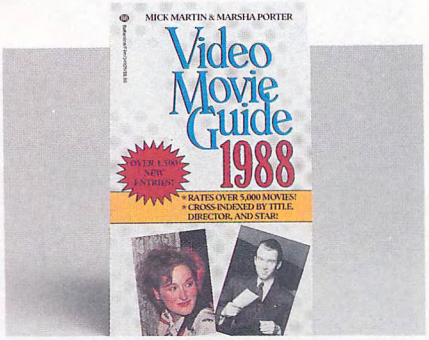
It's all a part of Mall Mania, an online extravaganza. Visit The Mall during January and February and you'll discover mid-winter sidewalk sales that won't send shivers down your spine ... a Valentine's Day database featuring "101 Ways to Say I Love You" ... the return of Electronic Mall auctions ... new merchants offering vacation packages sure to beat the mid-winter blahs ... contests that give you a chance to win prizes galore ... and much more.

1988. It's got a nice ring to it. We invite you to step inside the pages of *Go Mall* for a taste of what we've got in store.

Electronically yours,

Cindy Morgan




MICK MARTIN & MARSHA PORTER
Video Movie Guide 1988
OVER 1,500 NEW ENTRIES!
* RATES OVER 5,000 MOVIES!
* CROSS-INDEXED BY TITLE, DIRECTOR, AND STAR!

Free guide rates videos.

Place an order for $25 or more with Ballantine Books during the month of January and receive a free copy of *The 1988 Video Movie Guide*, a $6.50 value.

This new guide rates more than 5,000 movies and is cross-indexed by title, director and star. Your free book will be enclosed automatically with your order.

Ballantine's shelves feature contemporary fiction, science fiction classics, business how-to's, calendars and more. Offer valid through Jan. 31. GO BAL

Reach out and ask someone ... in an AT&T forum.

This February AT&T begins a series of monthly online forums, featuring experts in various aspects of telecommunications.

It's your chance to ask for advice on the specific communications concerns of small businesses and consumers ... to voice an opinion on the services and products offered by AT&T ... or simply to eavesdrop on what the experts predict for the future of telecommunications.

Speaker profiles and schedules can be found online in advance ... as well as instructions on how to participate in this exciting Electronic Mall event. For details, GO ATT.

ELECTRONIC LETTERBOX

Taking care.

Dear Coffee Emporium:

I expected computer shopping to be convenient—and heaven knows that it adds to the diversity of products available in a rural area such as mine.

But nobody ever told me I could get *more* personalized attention by shopping this way.

This is a long-winded way of saying "thank you" for your excellent service.

Bill D.
Atlanta, Ga.

Sit down and go shopping.

Dear Mall manager:

Through The Electronic Mall, I've purchased oranges directly from Florida, steaks from Texas and compact discs from New York.

Merchandise quality and merchant promptness are nothing short of superb.

Joseph C.
Cleveland, Ohio

Go Mall

***Go Mall*, January/February 1988**
Volume 2 Number 1

Go Mall is published bimonthly by The Electronic Mall®, a service of the Advanced Media Group, CompuServe Incorporated. For more information, call 614/457-8600, or send an EasyPlex to 70007,1610. Editors: Cindy Morgan, Mike Mooney, Kirk Donnan and Kassie Rose.

Mall Mania puts the fun back into sale shopping.

Special events at typical shopping malls can cause polite people to turn into frenzy-eyed shoppers who claw merchandise away from one another.

Not online.

During January and February, five special shopping events will take place at The Mall: a sidewalk sale, a tax information center, Mall auctions, a "First Baby of 1988" contest and a Valentine shopping boutique.

It's the perfect time for serious shopping, casual browsing and strategic purchases.

Plan ahead. Manage your mania for bargain after bargain from the beginning of January until the end of February with events like these:

If sidewalks could talk ...

Many Mall merchants will run sidewalk sales and special deals during this two-month period. Consult The Mall's top Mall Mania menu to keep informed.

Going ... going ... gone: auctions are back.

Back by popular demand: Electronic Mall auctions! Unlike old-fashioned auctions where prices creep upward, prices in The Mall's new high-tech auctions slide down, down, down. It's your chance to save on hundreds of items.

TaxTime at The Mall.

Whether a taxing ordeal for you or not, tax time comes around once a year. To make this year's pinch a little less painful (or to start planning now for next year), take a trip to TaxTime at The Mall.

Baby boom.

Announcing another Electronic Mall first—the First Baby Contest.

To welcome the first child born in 1988 to a CompuServe subscriber, The Mall has compiled a bonanza of gifts, donated by Mall merchants and sure to please new parents. More than a dozen of gifts for baby—and for the new mom and dad—can be yours if your latest addition is the first CompuServe baby to make his or her debut in the new year.

Valentine shopping guide: pick your potion.

Don't take a chance on love this Valentine's Day. Our Valentine's Day Guide equips you to orchestrate the real thing. We've done your gift-giving homework for you, with selections suitable for every Valentine on your list: Hearts and Flowers ... Seductive Suggestons ... Cupid's Choice ... The Way to His Heart.

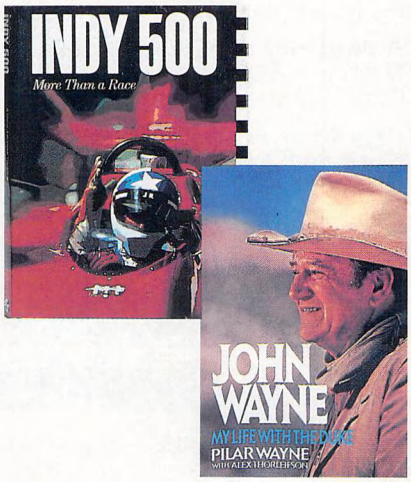
SIDEWALK SALE

Just a few of the curb-to-curb specials you'll discover while strolling The Mall's electronic sidewalks:

- **A free Citrus Sampler** with purchase from Florida Fruit Shippers during the month of January. GO FFS
- **A free *1988 Video Guide*** with purchase from Ballantine Books during the month of January. GO BAL

- **Software Discounters of America** semi-annual sidewalk sale, with dozens of titles at unbelievably low prices, during the month of February. GO SDA

- **Express Music's** $3.98 sale of more than 100 cassettes. Artists include Traffic, Joni Mitchell and Jethro Tull. GO EMC



- **McGraw Hill Book Company's** 15% price slice from a group of specially selected books and videos. Included are a video on the Indy 500 and the just-released John Wayne biography. GO MH

AUCTION

To assist in your bargain hunting, we'll post the approximate time each item will be placed on the auction block. Browse The Auction Warehouse in advance, and then log on at the appropriate time to bid against fellow subscribers for the merchandise of your choice. Watch for details—including dates and times—in The Mall Mania section on The Mall's top menu.

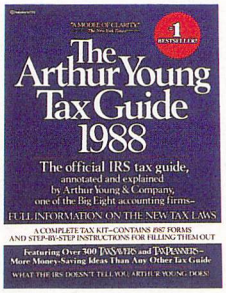
COMING ATTRACTIONS

TAX TIME

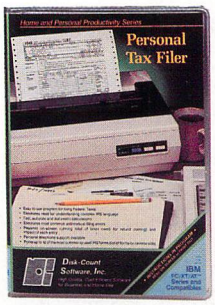
Items featured in the Mall's special TaxTime database include:

- **A directory of new tax books.** The new *1988 H&R Block Tax Guide* from Waldenbooks. GO WB

  The *1988 Arthur Young Tax Guide* from Ballantine Books. GO BAL


1 BESTSELLER
The Arthur Young Tax Guide 1988
The official IRS tax guide, annotated and explained by Arthur Young & Company, one of the Big Eight accounting firms—
FULL INFORMATION ON THE NEW TAX LAWS
A COMPLETE TAX KIT—CONTAINS 1987 FORMS AND STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING THEM OUT
Featuring Over 300 TAXPAYER and TAXPAYER—More Money-Saving Ideas Than Any Other Tax Guide
WHAT THE IRS DOESN'T TELL YOU, ARTHUR YOUNG DOES!

- **Free record-keeping books from H&R Block.** To keep your records accurate and simple, H&R Block is offering six free tax-record books. Having accurate records is one way to ensure you pay the minimal amount of tax. For details on how to obtain your free books, GO HRB.



- **A directory of tax-related software.** Featuring programs organized by computer type, including Sylvia Porter's Swiftax for the IBM, Apple and Atari ST. From Software Discounters of America. GO SDA

  J.K. Lasser's Your Income Tax, SoftView's Macintax and TaxAdvantage ... all from Computer Express. GO CE

  A full line of HowardSoft Tax Preparer Programs, including California Supplement and Partnership Edition, from Investment Software. GO IS

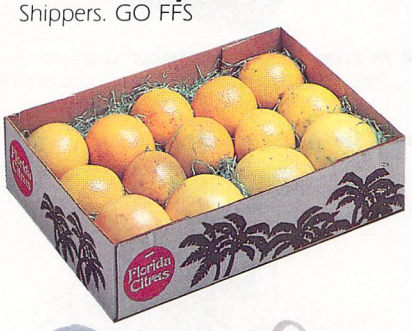
- **A shelf of tax record-keeping materials.** Chart your every fiscal move in the new year with products such as DOME bookkeeping software, *Taxsaver* record-keeping books by Sunset Books and expandable home files. From The Stationery Center. GO SC

- **Online tax tips.** Get money-saving suggestions from expert sources.

BABY BOOM

The prize package delivered to the first CompuServe delivery in 1988 contains:

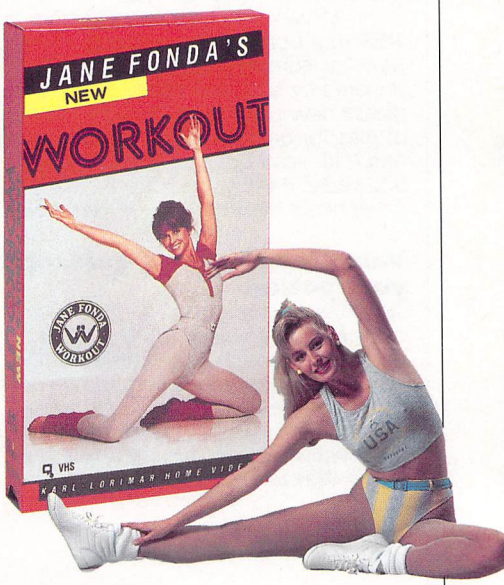
- **An Annie Ragg doll** from BannerGram. GO BG
- **A Coffee Sampler** (to keep you alert during those 3 a.m. feedings!) from Coffee Emporium. GO COF
- ***A C.R. Gibson Baby Book*** from The Stationery Center. GO SC
- **A Citrus Sampler** from Florida Fruit Shippers. GO FFS

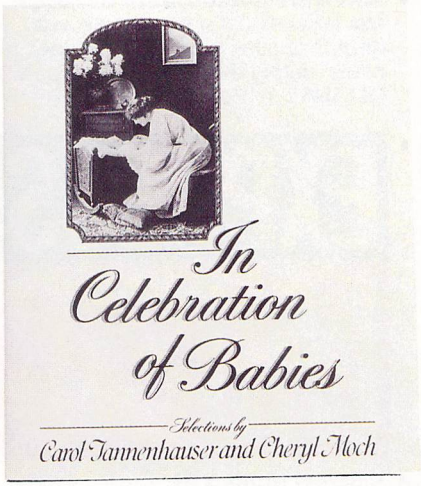


- **A Flying Bunny Bee** from Walter Knoll Florist. GO WK

- ***Baby's First Year Calendar*** from The Metropolitan Museum of Art. GO MMA

- ***Jane Fonda's New Workout* tape** from General Nutrition Corp. GO GN





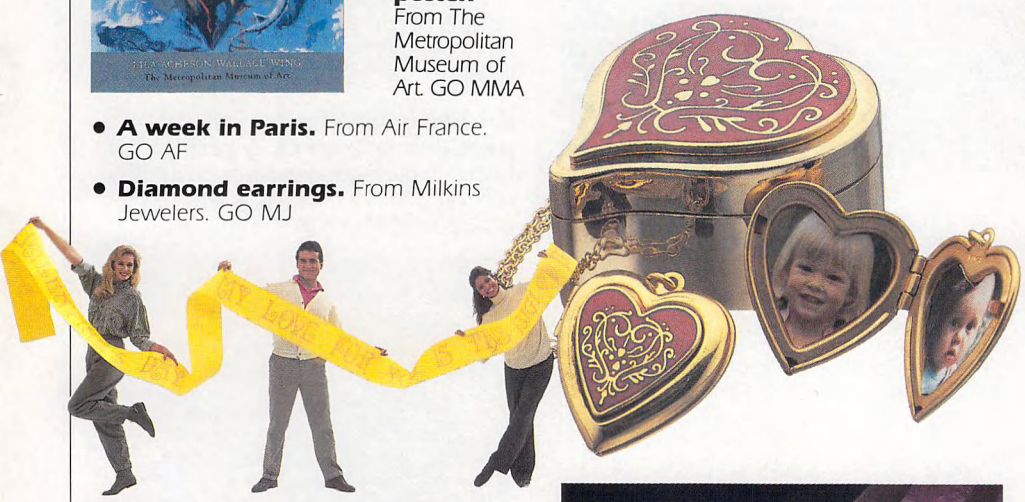
- ***In Celebration of Babies*** from Ballantine Books. GO BAL

COMING ATTRACTIONS

VALENTINE

- **A framed Jim Dine "heart" poster.** From The Metropolitan Museum of Art. GO MMA

- **French niello locket and box.** Gold with red enamel. From the Metropolitan Museum of Art. GO MMA



- **A week in Paris.** From Air France. GO AF
- **Diamond earrings.** From Milkins Jewelers. GO MJ

- **Vitabath Bath & Shower Gelee.** From B&K Beauty Supplies. GO BS
- **Elvis' *Love Me Tender* VHS.** From Magic Castle Video. GO MV
- **A heart-shaped cookie tin.** Filled with heart-shaped sugar cookies. From Pepperidge Farm. GO PF

- **A six-foot "Will You Be My Valentine?" banner.** From BannerGram. GO BG

- **A dozen long-stemmed roses.** From Walter Knoll Florist. GO WK
- **A sterling silver "love maze" pendant.** From Milkins Jewelers. GO MJ
- **A Gucci watch.** From American Express. GO AXM

- **A mink coat.** From American Express. GO AXM
- **Pepperidge Farm set of candy tins.** Red hots and conversation hearts. GO PF

- **Red lace bra, garter, bikini briefs and red stockings.** From Inside * Outside Lingerie. GO IO
- **Moire and lace teddy bear, ribboned hat box or heart-shaped Italian Paprio box filled with potpourri.** From Lincoln Manor Baskets. GO LM
- ***Love* by Leo Buscaglia.** From Ballantine Books. GO BAL

Now you can afford impromptu vacations.

You owe it to yourself ... a relaxing getaway. But you haven't had time to make plans and you don't have a big vacation budget. We have the solution.

With the opening of Moment's Notice at The Electronic Mall, your travel fantasies become reality, instantly and economically.

Picture this.

Unwinding on a five-day Bermuda cruise; basking in Barbados for a week; exploring the Orient; navigating the Nile; or taking in the theatre and tradition of London. All at prices you would question as real. But they are.

Many leading tour operators, airlines and cruise ships rely on Moment's Notice and similar services to fill vacancies on a moment's notice. Their need to fill vacancies passes savings on to you.

First class, first served.

Join the Moment's Notice Preferred Traveler program for online access to its traveler hotline. New cruises, airline packages and getaway vacations join the list of spontaneous opportunities every day. Recent selections include a two-week tour of the Orient, a Scandinavian holiday and a week in sunny St. Martin.

Since offerings change each day and availability of packages is limited, check the online hotline frequently to stay attuned to current offers. When that dream vacation comes to life in The Mall, you can't afford to pass it up.

Visit Moment's Notice and do something about the "I need a vacation" syndrome. GO MT

R+R Direct wants to be your computing connection.

New Mall merchant R+R Direct believes that there's no end to the ways your personal computer can make your business and personal lives more productive. R+R Direct wants to be your one-stop source for computer-related needs.

Visit R+R Direct online and discover the R+R Direct difference:

- Hundreds of computer products, software and peripherals at competitive prices
- The latest in new products, accessories and add-ons
- Free technical advice from R+R Direct's trained technical support team—both before and after the sale
- Free gifts with every purchase—from *Webster's New World Desk Dictionary* to a Pierre Cardin five-piece luggage set to a Percor electronic rower.
- R+R Direct's exclusive Frequent Buyer Program
- Same-day shipment when you place an order by 2 p.m.
- Free shipping on credit card orders

R+R DIRECT™

- R+R Direct's no-risk guarantee—return any purchase within 30 days for full credit, replacement or refund if not completely satisfied

Your computing needs are covered.

From desktop publishing to the latest in Lotus ... From modems and monitors to printers, computer paper and power protection devices ... It's all at your fingertips with R+R Direct. Here's a sample of the new products R+R Direct carries:

- Software Carousel™—keeps up to 10 programs loaded and ready to run.
- The Complete Answering Machine™—turns your personal computer into a complete voice-mail system, always at work ... while you go on working at the keyboard.
- Hot Line™—an all-new product that lets you do amazing things with your modem, at a low price.

As a CompuServe subscriber, you're entitled to exclusive discounts on the prices listed in R+R's print and electronic catalogs. For details, GO RD.

Petworks offers premiums.

New Mall merchant Petworks has a free gift for all dog and cat owners. The gift, a generous sample of nutritional pet food (Iams for cats and Eukanuba for dogs), comes free with any purchase.

Much more than your typical pet store, Petworks carries only the best in pet supplies and products ... including many items unavailable elsewhere.

Problem-solving, problem-preventing products.

Discover top-of-the-line items online for cats, dogs, birds and fish, designed to keep your pet healthy.

Great gifts for "best friends."

The Pet Pillow provides slumber comfort for your furry friend. Available in three sizes and a variety of colors, each pillow comes with an inner and outer zip lining for easy cleaning.

The Dog Owner's Home Veterinary Handbook and *The Cat Owner's Home Veterinary Handbook* are musts for any

dog or cat owner.

Odor-free litter boxes, carrying cases, flea sprays and vitamin supplements are offered online. Petworks wants to be your partner in pet care. Contact Petworks via EasyPlex for answers to your questions pertaining to products or pet-related concerns.

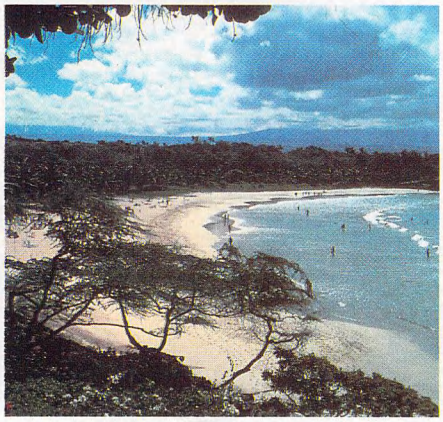
Pamper your pet with the best and receive a free gift. GO PW

JCPenney Travel makes booking your next vacation as easy as taking it!

As winter winds begin to blow, now is the time to plan your sabbatical in the sun. And JCPenney has a beach with your name on it!

Islands indeed.

How about Hawaii? Unwind on Oahu, Maui or Kauai. Or select the Waikiki Plus One Great Vacations Package that consists of four nights in Honolulu and three nights in Maui or Kauai. All Hawaiian Great Vacations include round-trip air transportation on American Airlines, hotel accommodations at a Sheraton, Outrigger or Aston Hotel and numerous extras.



Cruise the Caribbean.

If the Caribbean is what you fancy, JCPenney has a package that will put you there in style. Visit the Caymans, Jamaica, Barbados and the Bahamas.

Set sail aboard a leading liner, such as Holland America or Royal Caribbean. Book now for a 10-day New Year's Cruise or JCPenney's Orlando/Bahamas Cruise Vacation. There is also a variety of cruises on selected departure dates at savings of up to 30%—exclusively for CompuServe subscribers.

Professional planning.

Plan your vacation with JCPenney Travel and travel with confidence. Work with travel professionals who are among the best in the business. And, because of JCPenney's size and buying strength, enjoy a competitive fare.

All vacation packages are on regularly scheduled airlines and can be charged to your JCPenney account or any major credit card. Fare quotes from any airport in the United States will be provided via EasyPlex. Subscribers are encouraged to book at least one month in advance. All packages include many bonus features such as trip cancellation insurance and a one-day shopping spree with a 15% discount at any JCPenney store.

For your place in the sun, journey to JCPenney Travel today. GO JC

Software with a flair.

"The last thing I wanted to do was start a software company," says Michael Cahlin, founder of The Chocolate Software Company. "But what started as a one-time gimmick turned into a sound business opportunity."

Just one byte. That's all it took to make The Original Chocolate Byte™ a fun and creative computer accessory. The Original Chocolate Byte packs nearly a quarter pound of chocolate into a replica of a floppy disk.

Each Original Chocolate Byte is packaged in a handsome, reusable software case great for shuttling up to five inedible floppies. Order one for $9.95. Order four chocolate disks and receive one free. Or order 10 and receive five chocolate disks free.

Hardware and software for the sweet tooth.

With a taste of sweet success, Cahlin expanded his offerings to include both edible and inedible products and opened his doors on The Mall. In addition to The Original Chocolate Byte, The Chocolate Software Company now offers The Chocolate Chip™, The Chocolate Computer Keyboard™ and The Chocolate Computer Workstation.™

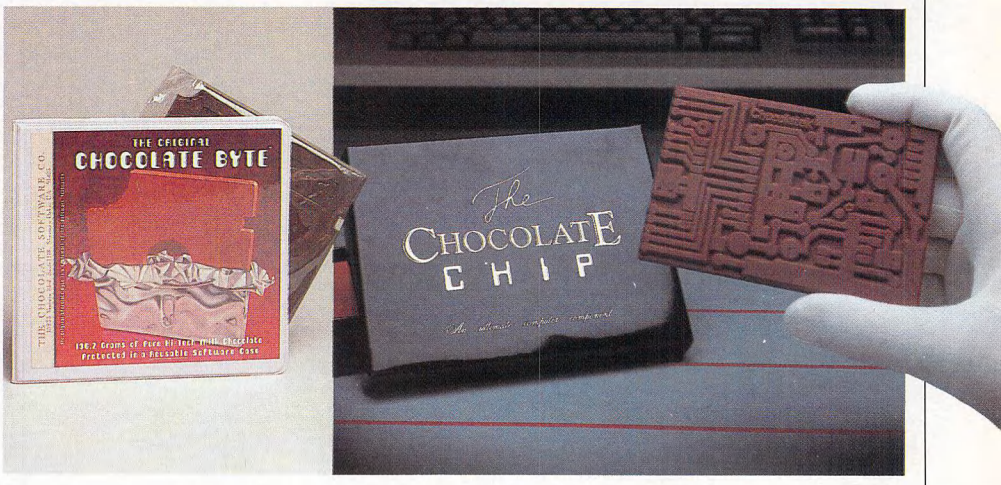
The Chocolate Chip is 54 delicious grams of fine Belgian chocolate molded into an oversized replica of a computer microchip, for only $7.95.

Not just sweets and treats.

Also featured online is a selection of inedible keyboards, software and hardware utilities. Especially recommended is Walt Disney personal computer software, a series of games that entertain while teaching valuable skills. And TopDOS™ is an amazing utility that makes working with DOS a dream.

Everything showcased online comes backed with The Chocolate Software Company's 30-day no-risk guarantee. If not completely satisfied, return your order for a full refund or exchange. No questions asked.

A gift from The Chocolate Software Company makes a great introduction to the high-tech world for the cynic, a tasty and clever way to thank business associates or a novel Valentine. GO CS



Credit The Mall for your tip on the Diners Club Card.

Discover the distinct advantage of Diners Club, the card that gives you something special just for doing business as usual.

Upon enrollment in their Club Rewards[sm] program, every eligible dollar you charge on the Diners Club Card works toward exciting free gifts and travel packages. Earn extra frequent flyer mileage on United, Northwest, Continental and American Airlines. Or receive free gifts such as a large-screen television, designer gold earrings or a Caribbean cruise. All advantages and details are outlined online.

Apply for the card online by completing a simple electronic application. GO DI

CITICORP DINERS CLUB

Panning for gold and other gifts.

Ivory Cache, located in Juneau, Alaska, invites Mall shoppers to sample treasures available from the 49th state.

Showcased online is a selection of fine jewelry, including ivory, gold, hematite (Alaska's "black diamond"), jade and silver.

For Valentine's Day gift-giving, Ivory Cache suggests a gold nugget necklace,

ivory earrings or a grizzly tie tack. Also recommended are genuine ¼- and ½-oz. Alaskan gold nuggets.

Other treasures include hand-sewn Eskimo seal-skin slippers; a Ulu knife; and genuine salmon leather accessories, including a wallet, an address book and a glasses case.

To pan for gold and other great gifts, GO IV.

Spotlight: collectibles.

Warning! Collecting can be habit-forming. Just ask the folks at The Doll Place or Don's Dollhouse and Miniatures.

Ann Parsons, co-proprietress of the California-based The Doll Place, explains, "Dolls are no longer just toys. Contemporary doll artists have elevated the craft of doll-making to the level of art. Dolls should be chosen and displayed with the same respect given to a fine sculpture or a painting."

Leading artisans.

Long-time collectors and beginners are invited to discover the wonderful world of dolls, online at The Doll Place. Dolls in every medium imaginable—porcelain, vinyl, wax, rag—are showcased. Choose porcelain works from Bing & Grondahl, Phyllis Parkin and the US Historical Society.

Also offered is a selection of Madame Alexander Dolls, including Mother Goose, Red Riding Hood, Emily Dickinson and Pollyanna. Many of the dolls, such as Robin Woods' Susan and Her Sled, are limited editions. The little girl on a sled is 15 inches tall, dressed for winter and limited to 300 dolls. Each doll is signed, numbered and features floppy arms and legs; soft body; fabric face with handpainted features; long, ash-blonde, combable hair and green eyes.

For Valentine's Day.

The Doll Place is pleased to present a special selection of Valentine's Day gifts including the Ginny Valentine doll (only $20 and highly collectible) and the Valentine's Ladies line, designed by Pamela Valentine.

For men, kaleidoscopes, individually crafted from a variety of woods and metals, and moving musical figurines are featured.

Finally, for teddy bear fanciers, The Doll Place features Van Vliet Merson J. Bear. Dressed in ball cap and vest and 22 inches tall, this bear is handcrafted and signed on the paw. Each bear has brown button eyes with long black eyelashes.

The Doll Place staff, all experts and collectors, will gladly assist any subscriber in selecting the perfect doll, whether it's the first piece of a collection or the 100th member of the family. GO DO

A miniature compulsion.

Another hobby that has gained popularity in recent years is building dollhouses. "For many, building the dream dollhouse is a lifelong project," according to Don, owner of Don's Dollhouse and Miniatures. Online at Don's, subscribers discover a complete line of dollhouses, building materials and miniatures.

A tour of homes.

Featured houses include Peaches 'n Cream, a four-room beginner house ... a Southern dynasty house ... and The Beacon Hill, a seven-room Victorian with three fireplaces, three bay windows and a winding staircase.

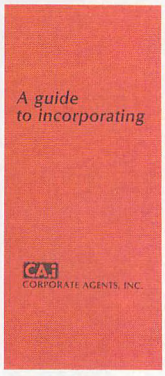
Building materials offered online include roofing and siding supplies, doors, windows, brick, stone and tile.

Don carries a full line of Reminiscence furniture to furnish your dream dollhouse. The furniture pieces are authentic reproductions, constructed from genuine hardwoods, and available in dark American oak or light turn-of-the-century golden oak. Victorian pieces and royal oak pieces are also available. Rockers ... a round table with ball and claw feet ... a rolltop desk ... a parlor sofa. These are just a few of the pieces offered. GO DD

MINI-SPOTLIGHTS

Incorporate!

You thought about it last year but never got around to it. It's a new year, and if you are self-employed, manage a small business or court an entrepreneurial idea, you owe it to yourself to investigate the advantages of incorporation. Business Incorporting Guide has a free kit that explains it all. It's yours for the asking. GO INC



Software Discounters of America expands ... again.

Software Discounters of America has done it again. It has enlarged its Mall store ... and now offers nearly 1,300 different software packages.

Browse the IBM Shoppe ... Apple Shoppe ... Atari Shoppe ... and the all-new Amiga and Macintosh Shoppes. Visit the bargain basement for rock-bottom prices on assorted software and accessories. Check the Newsflash section for hot new arrivals. GO SDA.

WANTED: audiophiles.

If you own a CD player, VHS or stereo system, discover the advantages of RCA Music Service, a service of BMG Direct Marketing.

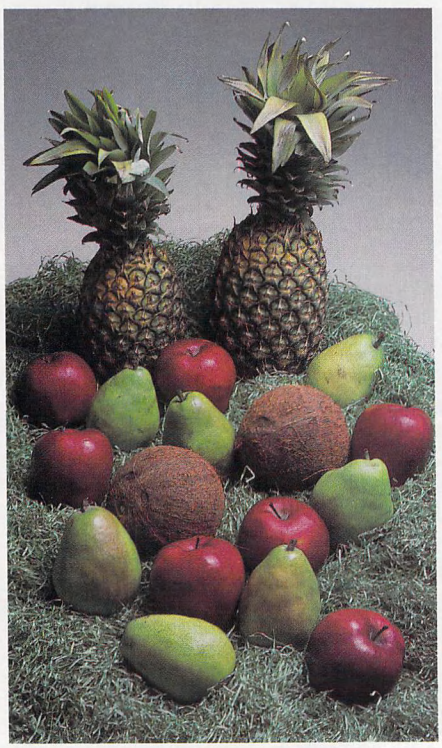
Build your entertainment library quickly and economically through any of BMG's four clubs online at The Mall. RCA's Music Service, for example, gives you eight records or cassettes for the price of one with no future obligation.

Join the Compact Disc Club and receive three CDs at no charge for agreeing to buy two more CDs in the next two years at regular club prices. Select from over 100 titles, including new and classic releases.

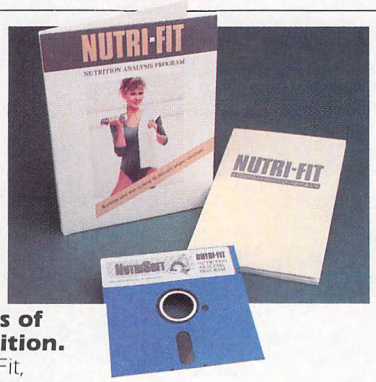
Club membership details and online membership applications can be found at BMG's Mall store. GO BMG

WINDOWS ON THE MALL

A FAREWELL TO UNWELCOME HOLIDAY ADDITIONS.



A taste of paradise. Red Delicious apples, Northwest pears, Caribbean pineapples and a tropical coconut. Paradise Pack available through February from Florida Fruit Shippers. GO FFS

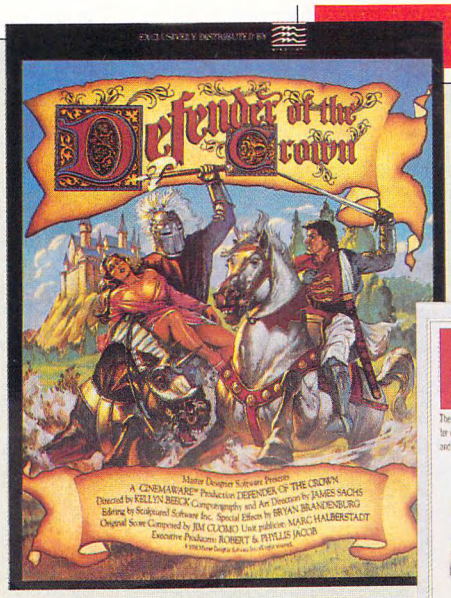


The ABCs of nutrition. NutriFit, nutrition analysis software for the IBM and compatibles, uses the power of the IBM PC to bring balance to your diet. This complete planning system provides personalized nutrition advice to you and your family and includes a comprehensive guide. From GNC Corp. GO GN

Talking back to the scale. A dream—or nightmare—come true. This microprocessor-controlled scale automatically announces your weight in a digitally-synthesized voice and informs you of gain or loss since your last weigh-in. The scale's memory allows up to five family members to track the comings and goings of their pounds or kilograms. Weights in excess of 287 pounds cause the scale to announce "Overload!" From Hammacher Schlemmer. GO HS

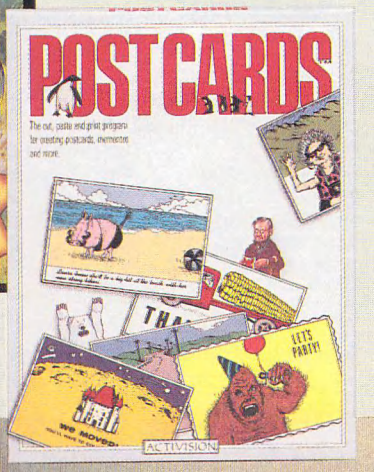
Weight Watchers International Cookbook. A collection of tasty, tempting calorie-controlled favorites representing cuisines throughout the world. From Waldenbooks. GO WB

Bike your way back to shape. Don't let winter weather thwart your exercise efforts. Here are two solutions: The Panasonic X-500 indoor exercise bicycle features chain drive, soft saddle seat, weighted pedals and lined toe stirrups. The Windtrainer attaches to your own bike, using turbine wheels to simulate challenging wind resistance. Both available from Bike Barn. GO BB



Defender of the Crown. New software for the IBM, Commodore and Amiga. From Software Discounters of America. GO SDA

Play post office. Make your own postcards. Available for the Commodore, IBM, Mac, Apple and Apple IIgs. From Software Discounters of America. GO SDA



Folding radial arm saw. From Black & Decker Powerline Network. GO BD

Warm up cold winter nights. With this goose down comforter. From American Express. GO AXM

Twenty pounds of fruit. The new Paradise Pack: crisp Northwest apples, sweet delicious pears, imperial Caribbean pineapples and tropical coconut—a full 20 pounds of fresh fruit for only $39.95, delivery included. From Florida Fruit Shippers. GO FFS

Jack-in-the-box. A classic toy to delight toddlers. Made by Galt of England. From Waldenbooks. GO WB

A deluxe coffee dessert sampler. Four flavorful favorites ... Cafe Sambucca, Cafe Hawaiian Hazelnut, Cafe Macadamia Nut and Grand Marnier. A new, non-fattening way to indulge in dessert! From Coffee Emporium. GO COF

After the fire. Clean up the ashes with the Wyndham fireplace vacuum, a special fire-retardant vacuum designed especially for fireplaces, barbecues and wood stoves. From Hammacher Schlemmer. GO HS

Flannel nightshirts. Cotton flannel in colorful plaids of red-green, blue-green or black-white. From Brooks Brothers. GO BR

Belly warming bowls of soup. Soups to savor! The Gourmet Collection, a dozen delicious belly-warmers for a winter's night ... hunter's soup thick with turkey, beef and burgundy wine ... lobster bisque drizzled with butter and sauterne ... corn chowder ... minestrone, plus eight more. From Pepperidge Farm. GO PF

Go for the gold. Olympic collector coins. Brilliant, uncirculated gold and silver coins commemorating the 1988 Seoul Olympics. From American Express. GO AXM

"Jack be nimble, Jack be quick ..." Dozens of classic candlestick designs in solid brass. From J.E. Smith Brassware. GO JE

Nothing comforts like cotton. His and her Porthault robes of extra dense 100% white cotton terry. Extra long and oversized for comfort. From American Express. GO AXM

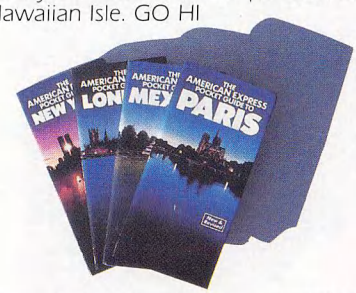
WINDOWS ON THE MALL

BEAT THE WINTER BLAHS

A cozy weekend for two in Ireland. This emerald isle package includes round-trip airfare, airport transfers and top-notch accommodations. Also featured are an Irish breakfast each morning and a dinner each night, including a medieval banquet at Bunratty Castle. Three- and four-day packages available starting at $499 per person. From Ameropa Travel. GO AT

R&R Riviera-style. Take a week-long sojourn in the sun of Southern France. Bask on the beaches of Cannes, Nice and Monte Carlo. Soak up the sun and take in the nightlife. From Air France. GO AF

Hawaiian escape scenarios. Request a printed travelogue featuring Hawaii's new luxury resorts ... the Kohala Coast of the Big Island, Kaanapali Beach on Maui, Poipu Beach on Kauai and many others. These colorful guides equip you to fine-tune your dream vacation plans. From Hawaiian Isle. GO HI



American Express Travel Guides. Tuck one in your suitcase before you go. Each is filled with travel tips, sight-seeing suggestions, maps and much more. Available for New York, California, London, England and Wales. From American Express. GO AXM

Phantoms, cats and chorus girls. Consider a theatre trip to New York for Valentine's Day, President's weekend or just because. Visit Tele-Charge Theatre Tickets online for information on what's playing on Broadway. Then call toll-free to order your tickets for the season's sensation, *The Phantom of the Opera*, or for long-running classics such as *Cats* or *A Chorus Line*. From Tele-Charge. GO TC

A bit of the bubbly. Morrell & Co., New York's premium wine merchant, will gladly deliver champagne to your New York hotel for a pre-theatre toast. Choose from a wide online selection, including Charbaut Blanc de Blancs 1979, Moet White Star, Piper Rare 1982 and Tattinger Comtes de Champagne 1979. GO MC

APPAREL/ACCESSORIES

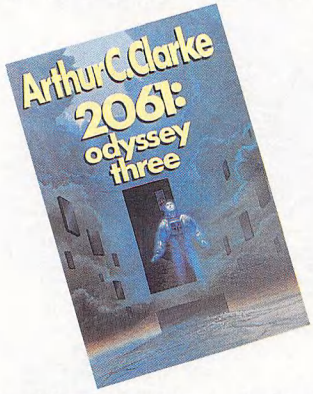
Gold and diamond heart pendant. A classic diamond heart pendant in 14 carat yellow gold. Hand-set with 16 diamonds. Total weight: 1 carat. From Milkins Jewelers. GO MJ

The office cardigan. A Brooks Brothers exclusive. Navy worsted office cardigan with a three-button front, notched lapels and lower pockets. Knitted in Italy. From Brooks Brothers. GO BR

The seduction of silk. Silk cami and French brief set. Imported by Christine Proenza. Made of 100% silk charmeuse trimmed in the finest French lace. Available in ivory, black or white. From Inside * Outside Lingerie. GO IO

BOOKS/PERIODICALS

The Complete Little House Series by Laura Ingalls Wilder. The classic chronicle about the winning of the West and American family life. All nine volumes just $24.95. From Waldenbooks. GO WB

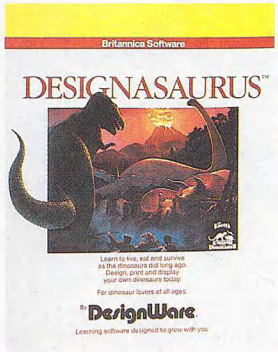


2061: Odyssey Three by Arthur C. Clarke. The second sequel to a modern masterpiece. Clarke once again leads you into the future. From Ballantine Books. GO BAL

COMPUTING

Your Income Tax Software from J.K. Lasser for IBM computers. Complete with 1987 tax tables and forms. Examines "what if" questions about taxes, compares various strategies and completes and prints most forms. From Computer Express. GO CE

Heathkit H-386. An extremely powerful computer kit. The H-386 features the high-powered 32-bit 80386 microprocessor for minicomputer performance in a desktop personal computer. Build it yourself and enjoy significant savings over comparable off-the-shelf equivalents. From Heathkit. GO HTH



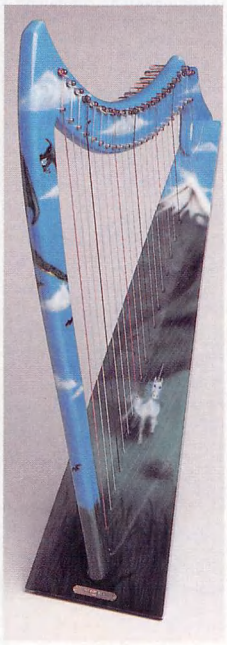
Fun for fans of big lizards. Enjoy Designasaurus for the IBM or compatibles. From Software Discounters of America. GO SDA

Apple Macintosh SE. The SE adds a new dimension in expansion and flexibility to the already powerful Macintosh family. Comes standard with either two 800K internal drives or one 800K internal drive and an internal 20MB SCSI hard disk. From CDA Computer Sales. GO CDA

WINDOWS ON THE MALL

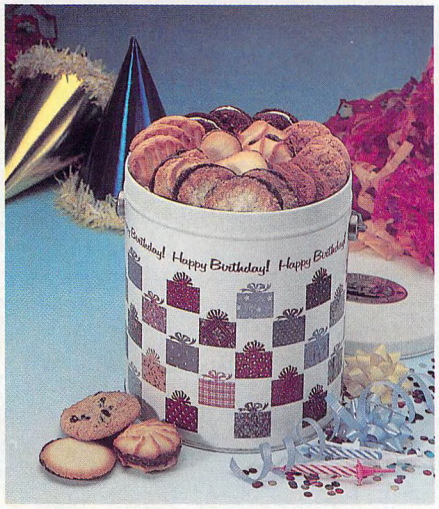
GIFTS/NOVELTIES

A picnic for patriots. It's an all new variety of gift packs, including Uncle Sam's Snack Pack, Star Spangled Sweets and America Preserve Us. From Lincoln Manor Baskets. GO LM



Harps for earthbound angels. Choose from a variety of new harps and lyres. Each is custom-crafted from choice wood and ornamented with mother-of-pearl, abalone and other fine materials. For children, select The Baby Harp, designed especially for smaller hands. From BannerGram. GO BG

GOURMET/FLOWERS



Birthday delicacies. The Pepperidge Farm Happy Birthday Tin will satisfy the sweet tooth of any birthday celebrity. Contents include 29 oz. of Country Style, Lido, Milano, Nassau, chocolate chip and shortbread cookies. Tin height: 7 1/4 inches. GO PF

Fine meats from afar. A selection of choice Colorado lamb chops or Virginia smoked hams. Ideal entrees for a wintertime dinner party. From Simon David. GO SIM

MERCHANDISE/ELECTRONICS

Just the fax, please. Transmit letters, graphs and documents anywhere in the world with AT&T fax machines. Read about product highlights for AT&T's full line of fax machines online. Or request a free brochure. GO ATT

Tooling around. A deluxe rotary tool kit from Black & Decker Powerline Network is a welcome addition to any workshop. GO BD

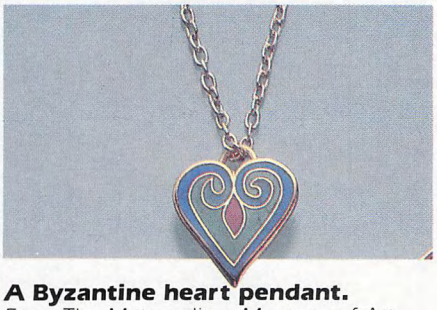
MUSIC/MOVIES

Manipulate the music. With MIDI software from Music Alley Online. Order recent releases at a substantial discount. Select quality MIDI software for all computer types from leading manufacturers such as Korg, Casio, Ensoniq, Valhalla, Symphony, Mimetics and Systems Design Associates. From Music Alley Online. GO MAO

OFFICE SUPPLIES

1988 Wish Book Office Products Catalog. Over 800 pages of color photographs, descriptions and comparison charts for more than 25,000 items. Receive a $10 rebate with any order of $30 or more. From The Stationery Center. GO SC

PREMIUM MERCHANTS



A Byzantine heart pendant. From The Metropolitan Museum of Art. GO MMA

Computerized exercise bike. Fitness goes high-tech with a Bally Lifecycle. This exercise bike features programmable resistance levels. From American Express. GO AXM

A powerful computerized address book. Store up to 400 names and phone numbers and recall the one you need at the touch of a button. Only $49.95. From Hammacher Schlemmer. GO HS

Coffee Emporium's Perfect Cup of Coffee Contest.

Coffee Emporium invites all coffee drinkers to enter its "Perfect Cup of Coffee Contest." The Grand Prize winner gets his or her choice of one pound of Jamaican Blue Mountain coffee, arguably the best coffee in the world, or a Durotherm Thermos Coffeemaker.

Entering is easy. In 25 words or less, tell Coffee Emporium about the most perfect cup of coffee you've ever had.

Submit your entry via "Send Us a Message" at Coffee Emporium's Mall store. Entries will be accepted Jan. 1 through Jan. 31 and will be judged on originality and good taste. The winning essay will be featured online.

No purchase is necessary, but if you place an order when entering the contest, Coffee Emporium will give you a 10% discount. GO COF

"Brainbusters" for theatre buffs.

Tele-Charge announces the launch of their monthly "Theatre Buff Brainbuster" quiz. Once every month, you'll have a chance to test your stage savvy and win valuable theatre-related prizes, such as T-shirts, show posters or tickets to Broadway's best.

Winners also get to see their names in lights online at Tele-Charge's Winner's Marquee.

Here's how the contest works:

The first of every month, a new contest is posted. Each quiz consists of three trivia questions. Be one of the first five subscribers to correctly solve the quiz, and win a prize. Consider these two sample questions as your dress rehearsal:

1. What actress originally refused the lead in a Tony-winning musical, only to play the role on Broadway six years later?
2. This show broke all previous records for its first day on sale, with more than $400,000 worth of tickets sold. What show is it?

GO TC and good luck!

Prizes for all at AT&T.

The "AT&T Chain" is a new online puzzler beginning in February.

The first subscriber to successfully solve the chain wins that month's prize. But this is a contest that everyone wins ... because a prize is guaranteed for everyone who completes the contest—even those who answer incorrectly.

Best of all, monthly winners become eligible for a Grand Prize drawing later in the year. Win prizes and discover the latest in AT&T communications equipment and services. GO ATT

And the answer is ...

Get ready, here comes "Mall Jeopardy"! During January and February, you'll have two chances to win a $12.50 usage credit in electronic "Mall Jeopardy."

Simply be one of the first 10 subscribers each month to ask the correct questions for five given answers. The category is The Electronic Mall, of course. The contest, located on the top menu of *Go Mall* Online, begins at 12:01 a.m. EST on Jan. 1 and again on Feb. 1.

For starters, here are the first three answers from January "Mall Jeopardy":

1. This merchant, America's oldest retailer, opened its Electronic Mall doors last October.
2. The home of *Leisure Suit Larry*.
3. The King of Kitbuilders.

GO GMO and good luck!

THE WINNER'S CIRCLE

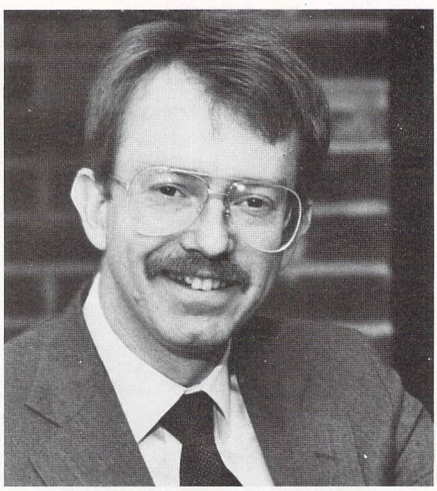
Bon voyage to Phil Fry.

Congratulations to new CompuServe subscriber Phil Fry, the Grand Prize winner in last fall's second annual Your Number's Up! contest.

Fry, who manages a Days Inn in Mansfield, Ohio, won a trip for two to Paris, France, compliments of Mall merchant Air France. A long-time computer enthusiast, Fry became a CompuServe subscriber only last August. While exploring The Mall one evening with his wife, he discovered the contest.

"We entered, but forgot all about it," Fry said. When called at his home early one October morning with the news that "his number was up," Fry, absolutely stunned, said, "I can't believe it! This is a joke, right?"

Fry and his wife will be laughing all the way to Paris, France, on board a luxurious Air France 747. The Fry's Jet Vacation package includes round-trip air transportion for two and accommodations in a superior tourist hotel for six nights in the city of light. This will be the Fry's first trip abroad. Join us in wishing them bon voyage!



Air France invites all subscribers to visit its Mall store for the latest travel information for Paris, the Riviera, Monte Carlo, Tahiti and other foreign shores. Ask for free travel brochures or borrow from Air France's video library. GO AF

MALL DIRECTORY

APPAREL/ACCESSORIES

APC Apparel Concepts for Men ■
GD The Gold Connection
BR Brooks Brothers ■
IO Inside * Outside Lingerie ■ *
MJ Milkins Jewelers ■

AUTO

AV AutoVision
BU Buick Magazine ■
CHV Chevy Showroom ■
DU Dutchess CompuLease
FMC Ford Motor Co. ■

BOOKS/PERIODICALS

BAL Ballantine Books
DJ Dow Jones & Co.
MH The McGraw-Hill Book Co.
MER Mercury House
BK Small Computer Book Club
TL Time-Life Books
WB Waldenbooks

COMPUTING

ATN Aaxion Tech Network ■
PRT Butler Graphics
CDA CDA Computer Sales ■ *
CD Computer Discount Warehouse
CE Computer Express *●
GL Great Lakes Business Forms
HTH The Heath Co. ■
IBM IBM Canada Ltd.
IS Investment Software ■
MM Marymac Industries Inc.
MNU Menu International
NT Nitro Micro ■
RD R+R Direct ■ †
SAF Safeware ■
SDA Software Discounters of America
VC Virtusonics

FINANCIAL

INC Business Incorporating Guide
HRB H&R Block
MU Max Ule Discount Brokerage

GIFTS/NOVELTIES

BG BannerGram by Mail
CS Chocolate Software Company †
HI Hawaiian Isle
IV Ivory Cache ● †
JE J.E. Smith Brassware
LM Lincoln Manor Baskets

GOURMET/FLOWERS

COF Coffee Emporium ■
FTH Fifth Avenue Shopper
FFS Florida Fruit Shippers ■
PF Pepperidge Farm ■
SIM Simon David
WK Walter Knoll Florist ●

HEALTH/BEAUTY

BS B&K Beauty Supplies
GN General Nutrition Corporation

HOBBIES/TOYS

DD Don's Dollhouse & Miniatures *●
HC Hobby Center Toys
DO The Doll Place
PW Petworks
TSR TSR Hobby Shop ■ *

MERCHANDISE/ELECTRONICS

ATT AT&T
BD Black & Decker Powerline Network *●
ORD CompuServe Store
CFD Crutchfield ■
GC Garden Camera & Electronics *
SV Stereo/Video Factory

MUSIC/MOVIES

BMG RCA Direct Marketing, Inc.
EMC Express Music *
MV Magic Castle Video
MAO Music Alley Online

OFFICE SUPPLIES

EX Executive Stamper
OM Office Machines & Supplies ■ *
SC Stationery Center ●

ONLINE SERVICES

EF EF Hutton ■
NN NewsNet
OA Official Airline Guides, Inc. ■

PREMIUM MERCHANTS

AXM American Express Merchandise ■
DI Diners Club †
HS Hammacher Schlemmer ■
MMA Metropolitan Museum of Art *
MC Morrell and Company

SPORTS/LEISURE

BB Bike Barn
RR Rin Robyn Pool 'N Patio ■

TRAVEL/ENTERTAINMENT

AF Air France ■
AT Ameropa Travel ■
JC JCPenney Travel ■ †
MT Moment's Notice ■ †
TC Tele-Charge—Theatre tickets †

■ Offers free print catalog.
* Denotes electronic order form for use with print catalog.
● Credits cost of print catalog toward purchase.
† Denotes new merchant.

HOW TO ORDER

Shopping The Mall.

Ordering from The Electronic Mall is easy. Each time you enter a Mall store, a personal order file, much like an electronic shopping cart, is opened for you. Browse a store's database, and when you see a product you would like to buy, type the letter "O" and the order will be placed in your file, similar to selecting an item from a store's shelf and placing it in your cart.

You can order directly from the product description page — there is no need to return to a store's top menu. You can order one item or a dozen. When you type "O," the system does not complete your order; it only registers your desire to make a purchase.

Checking out.

To complete your order, you must "check out." You can do this by typing CHECKOUT, the GO command of the next store you wish to visit or any command that takes you elsewhere on CompuServe. This tells the system you are ready to complete the order and presents two options.

1. Cancel your order by typing EXIT.
2. Complete your order by responding to a series of prompts for additional information.

When you have supplied the necessary information, you will receive an order summary. You now have the chance to change part or all of your order. For example, if you've ordered three books but decide you only want two of them, you can delete one book from your order. Or maybe you would like to have your order shipped to your office instead of your home. You can make that change, too.

Once you've made any changes, you again will have the chance to review your order. When you confirm the order as correct, you will receive an order confirmation number. *At this point, your order is complete.* It is sent electronically to the Mall merchant's CompuServe mailbox for processing. The order process is the same for every Mall merchant, but methods of payment and delivery may differ. If you have questions regarding your order, it is best to contact the merchant directly by using the customer service information provided within each store.

WANTED: NEW MALL MERCHANTS

Do you have a product or a service of interest to CompuServe subscribers? Consider opening a Mall store. Contact the sales office for details.

Call 614/457-8600. Send an EasyPlex to 70007,1476. Or write:

The Electronic Mall
5000 Arlington Centre Blvd.
Columbus, OH 43220
614/457-8600

GOINGS ON—AT A GLANCE

JANUARY

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY

1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

January 1
- Happy New Year! Sidewalk sales start at The Mall. Win valuable prizes online! Enter Mall Jeopardy, Tele-Charge's Theatre Buff's Brainbuster and Coffee Emporium's Perfect Cup of Coffee Contest.

January 2
- Free connect day at R+R Direct. GO RD*
- Free connect day at RCA Direct. GO BMG*

January 3
- Free connect day at RCA Direct. GO BMG*

January 7
- Free connect day at Chocolate Software Co. GO CS*

January 9
- Free connect day at RCA Direct. GO BMG*

January 10
- Free connect day at RCA Direct. GO BMG*

January 16
- Free connect day at Diners Club. GO DI*

January 17
- Free connect day at Petworks. GO PW*

January 23
- Free connect day at RCA Direct. GO BMG*

January 24
- Free connect day at Ivory Cache Travel.
- Free connect day at RCA Direct. GO BMG*

January 29
- Free connect day at Moment's Notice. GO MT*

February 1
- Win valuable prizes online! Enter new Mall Jeopardy, new AT&T Chain Contest and a new Theatre Buff's Brainbuster Contest.

February 6
- Free connect day at RCA Direct. GO BMG*

February 7
- Free connect day at RCA Direct. GO BMG*

February 12
- Lincoln's birthday.
- Electronic Mall auctions begin.

February 13
- Free connect day at RCA Direct. GO BMG*

February 14
- Valentine's Day.
- Free connect day at RCA Direct. GO BMG*

February 19
- More Electronic Mall auctions.

February 20
- Free connect day at RCA Direct. GO BMG*

February 21
- Free connect day at RCA Direct. GO BMG*

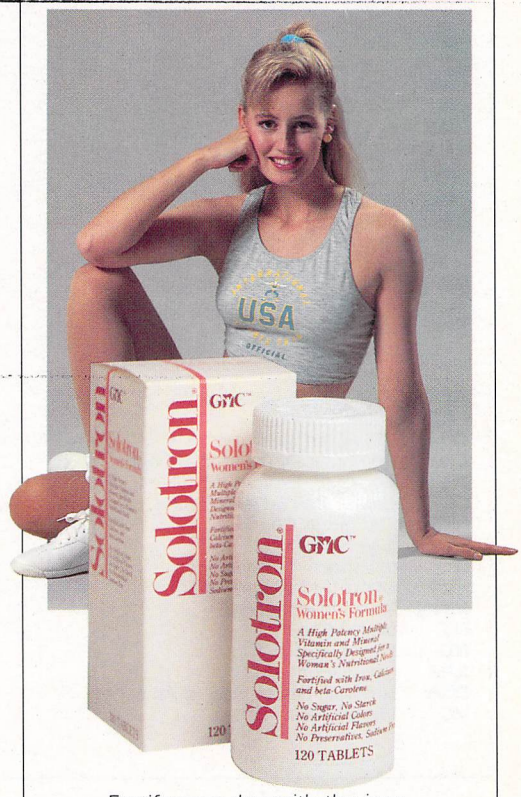
February 25
- The Electronic Mall's third birthday.

February 27
- Free connect day at RCA Direct. GO BMG*

* Please remember that for Mall promotions that include free connect time, all applicable communications surcharges remain in effect. Free connect is always from midnight to midnight.

WINDOWS ON THE MALL

HEALTH/BEAUTY



Fortify your day with the iron, calcium and beta-carotene in Solotron Women's Formula vitamin and mineral tablets. From General Nutrition Corporation. GO GN

Massage your skin with cleansing sea sponges, loofa bath strap with soft terry backing, and a body brush with contour handle and natural bristles. From B&K Beauty Supplies. GO BS

Investors' Forum Equals Difference Between Profit and Loss

by Brian Monahan

On October 19, 1987—when the stock market plunged more than 500 points—and many days thereafter, CompuServe's Investors' Forum was the bloodline for subscribers trying to survive the fall.

The Investors' Forum (GO INVFORUM) has a message board, conference mode, data libraries and bulletins commonly found on CompuServe forums. However simple these procedures, the information culled from the Investors' Forum may mean an investor's profit or loss in the financial markets. It is the information necessary for financial savvy.

One strategy users might find especially useful on the Investors' Forum is reading threads of messages (RT from the Read Messages menu). This allows you to get a feel for the topic being discussed.

Forum discussions are as varied as the interests of investors who frequent the area. A discussion on stock options has been ongoing for several weeks. Another discussion of a particular mutual fund has become quite heated. Although the names of actual stocks or funds will not be named here, forum members regularly discuss a variety of different investment options by name. CompuServe clearly states that it accepts no responsibility for investments made as a result of information found in the forum.

In addition to stocks, bonds and other investments, a number of forum messages discuss the many programs available in the forum's data libraries. Those messages involve the applicability of different programs to different investment situations. Users regularly share suggestions about programs they have used.

The software available in the Investors' Forum data libraries is both varied and useful. Programs range in complexity from a BASIC program that will compute fundamental ratios for analysis of a company to the latest version of a popular shareware portfolio manager for the IBM and compatibles. That program (PFR01.ARC) will compute return on an investment or a portfolio before or after taxes. It will handle multiple portfolios without limit on the number of securities. Accommodation is made for stocks, bonds, T-bills, mutual funds, certificates of deposit and even short sales. For those who prefer to use Lotus 1-2-3, a portfolio manager in a spreadsheet format (PORTWK.ARC) is available.

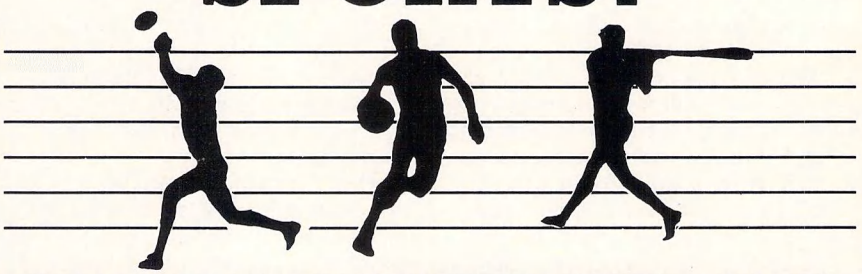
As with many files in many forums, a number of the files available in the Investors' Forum data libraries are archived files (with the .ARC extension). Those files should be downloaded with a protocol—ideally CompuServe's B protocol, but XMODEM also will work. Once the file is downloaded, it must be unpacked using ARC-E or a similar utility. A copy of ARC-E and information about using it can be found in Data Library 2 of the IBM Communications Forum (GO IBMNET) and in many other places on the system.

Other software available in the forum's data libraries includes a simple program, TBILL.IBM, that will calculate the yield of a Treasury bill. OPTWKS.ARC is a small Lotus 1-2-3 worksheet that becomes OPTIONZ.WKS when it is de-archived. This worksheet is a good starting point for those who wish to use a spreadsheet to do their own options analysis. Days from purchase, days to expiration, commissions and net running total are all calculated. This is a small, simple worksheet that can easily be expanded.

Although the Investors' Forum focuses on investments, the topics covered are not limited to traditional "stocks and bonds" types of investments. Both the forum and the data libraries cover other types of investments. For example, CAR.ARC is an interesting program that will tell you whether it is more cost effective to keep your present car or to buy a new or used car. You are asked to type in factors such as gas mileage, cost of financing, cost of the car and the anticipated value of the car at some time in the future. MTGWK1.ARC will give a 30-year workshop detailing each monthly mortgage payment. You are asked to type in the amount of the loan, the interest rate and a few other factors.

Whether you are a Wall Street tycoon, a student of finance or an investor who prefers to use Monopoly money, you'll find information that may be profitable but will always be interesting.

SERIOUS ABOUT
SPORTS?



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Greg Miller

Taking advantage of windows of opportunity in the market: *Edwards*

Wise Investment

Time Spent in ENS Yields Valuable Financial Information

by Cathryn Conroy

Serious investors know that the stock market is sensitive to news events around the world. The president makes a speech or the Department of Commerce issues updated figures on the consumer price index and the market reacts quickly, often without warning. Witness the October 19, 1987 plunge of more than 500 points that took the nation by surprise and cost investors hundreds, thousands and, for some, millions of dollars. Having access to crucial economic indicators *before* they reach the public through the print or broadcast media can make or break the results of investment decisions. The Executive News Service (GO ENS) provides this type of late-breaking news as fast as the wire services and other news sources can transmit it.

"Many investors like to take advantage of quick windows of opportunity in the market," explains John Edwards, CompuServe financial product specialist. "Since news and information reach the market in a random fashion, many individuals believe that profitable opportunities exist for those who react on it the fastest—and that's where the Executive News Service provides a major service."

The Executive News Service includes business articles from several sources, including the Associated Press, *The Washington Post*, Reuters, the McGraw-Hill News Service and OTC NewsAlert. The Associated Press offers national news stories as they come off the wires. As the largest news-gathering organization in the United States, AP offers outstanding financial coverage of news events around the nation and the world in an extremely timely fashion.

The Washington Post is internationally famous for its expert political coverage of fast-breaking events on Capitol Hill, in the White House and in the Supreme Court. Key candidates, lawmakers and pending legislation are given careful and frequent analysis in *The Post*, which offers unique insights into government news.

Reuters provides the latest news from Tokyo, New York, London and a host of other financial centers. Designed primarily for the professional stockbroker, Reuters articles focus on individual companies, governments, foreign exchange markets, the US stock market and how other types of markets affect the price of a company's stock.

The McGraw-Hill News Service offers company, industry, government and stock market news stories researched by Standard & Poor's analysts and Data Resources economists. The service is strong in specialized industry reports written by more than 800 business and economics experts worldwide.

OTC NewsAlert describes various activities that could affect stock prices of small companies that trade over-the-counter. This searchable database of recent and historical news articles tracks many small and even obscure companies.

Since thousands of news stories are published each day, a user of the Executive News Service can create a profile that automatically selects and saves designated articles. Once the preselected business stories have been read, the smart investor can then use CompuServe's other resources to help in the decision-making process.

For instance, a user may be interested in corporate mergers and acquisitions. After reading in the Executive News Service about a rumored takeover of a retail chain, he or she might then go to Quick Quote (GO QQUOTE) to get a current stock quote to use for comparison. Issue Pricing History (GO PRICES) and Price/Volume Graphing (GO TREND) give the issue's price and volume activity during the last several months, while Pricing Statistics (GO PRISTATS) offers its historic trading range. Based on the gathered information, the investor may decide that the recent price and trading patterns don't indicate knowledge of the acquisition (for instance, a sudden rise in price or surge in trading volume has not occurred). The investor may then decide to buy the stock.

An investor who owns stock in a retail company can design his or her Executive News Service profile to capture stories on economic variables. If the profile information indicates that consumer spending is expected to decline sharply during the next few months, the investor can investigate several other CompuServe databases. Standard & Poor's Online (GO S&P) gives the past earnings of that company and offers a more timely analysis of the external factors affecting the business. I/B/E/S (GO IBES) provides a consensus estimate of future earnings, thus giving insight on the impact such earnings may have on the stock price. If past decreases in earnings performance have caused the price of the stock to decline significantly, the investor may decide to sell the issue.

Some investors follow federal legislation, knowing that Capitol Hill activities have a significant impact on a number of industries. For example, by capturing ENS stories on the Food and Drug Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and others, an investor may discover that the EPA plans to enforce more strict air pollution guidelines in the automobile industry. Millions of dollars will have to be spent to meet the new regulations. If the investor has significant holdings of stock in an auto manufacturer, he or she may consider the benefits of selling the issue before the new regulations affect the stock market.

Making investment decisions is not a simple process. However, the Executive News Service, used as a starting point, provides the serious investor with firm facts and figures that may affect investment decisions. Interpreting how those facts will affect the price of a stock is all part of the art and science of investing.

Cathryn Conroy, a contributing editor of Online Today, *is based in Gaithersburg, Md. Her CompuServe User ID number is 70007,417.*

McGraw-Hill News Brings Specialized Reports to ENS

Looking for more than just the facts? McGraw-Hill News, now available through CompuServe's Executive News Service (GO ENS), provides company, industry, government and stock market news stories researched by analysts at Standard & Poor's and economists at Data Resources Incorporated.

McGraw-Hill News editors expand selected stories with in-depth commentary. Coverage is detailed yet concise. Whether you are monitoring leveraged buy-outs, stock investments, economic indicators or international politics, McGraw-Hill News will keep you apprised of developments. "It is real-time news," says Julie Denny, manager of marketing and sales at McGraw-Hill. "We break the stories immediately."

Through ENS, users can scan current or late-breaking news or create a clipping folder that selects specific news stories chosen by keywords or phrases of interest. Investors can follow major share offerings of corporations, the ups and downs of the dollar, the yen and the mark, and earnings estimates of prospective investments. Business executives can monitor division sales, take-over bids and new product developments of competitors as well as keep an eye on Wall Street, Congress and world events that may impact their industry.

McGraw-Hill News draws its specialized information from McGraw-Hill's worldwide news network of more than 800 business and economics experts servicing the 88 magazines and newsletters published by McGraw-Hill Inc.

"The more news wires we put on CompuServe's service, the more coverage we have," says Carrie Ford, CompuServe product manager. "But we do not want wires that give the same news. We thought McGraw-Hill was unique, with its specialized industry reports and in-depth analysis. It has experts in the fields of interest it reports on, and you can't get that kind of coverage anywhere else."

CompuServe's Executive News Service is available to Executive Option subscribers. Once in ENS, you can include McGraw-Hill in your clipping folder or scan current or late-breaking news by entering the wirecode MH. The $15 per hour ENS surcharge applies.

Business Briefs

Microware Support Online

Microware Systems Corp., the publisher of the OS-9 operating system, now offers support of its products in the Microware Online Support Forum.

The area is designed to answer subscribers' technical questions about OS-9, a multiuser, multitasking operating system. Information about known software problems, tutorials and direct access to Microware is available. GO MICROWARE

Stock Quote Capacity Increased

CompuServe serviced 10 times the normal number of financial products users during the Oct. 19 and Oct. 20 flurry of trading activity on Wall Street, and is now prepared to meet 35 times previous capacity in the face of increased access demands.

With the aid of satellite technology, CompuServe managed to receive stock quotes as they were provided by 20-minute delay during record-breaking trading.

Whether it's a rampaging Bull or Bear, CompuServe's increased access capacity and state-of-the-art reception techniques will put timely financial information in the hands of subscribers who need it. GO QUOTES

International Financial News

The Executive News Service and AP Videotex are up-to-the-minute sources for subscribers interested in the latest international news on stocks and currencies.

Subscribers can find out what transpired in Tokyo and London from AP and Reuters before the US markets open.

Subscribers can instruct the Executive News Service to automatically save stories on the international markets and currencies from the Reuters Financial Report and the Associated Press. Stories containing your keywords will be clipped as they become available from the major business wires and saved to be accessed at your convenience.

The Executive News Service is available to Executive Option subscribers. GO ENS

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GO OLI or circle 10 on the Reader Service Form.

McGRAW-HILL
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Forum Supports Javelin Users

by Carole Houze Gerber

Even if you don't yet own Javelin 1.1 or Javelin PLUS—the latest versions of a comprehensive business analysis and reporting software package—the Javelin Forum (GO JAVELIN) welcomes your interest. As an incentive, potential users may download a free copy of a Javelin demo program (DEMO.ARC) located in Data Library 1.

Those who purchase the $99.95 Javelin 1.1 software package or Javelin PLUS for $249.95 from the Boston-based Javelin Software Corp. will receive a complimentary IntroPak including two free hours of connect time on CompuServe. Free telephone support is offered to all registered Javelin users for 30 days following purchase of the software. There is no surcharge for accessing this forum.

The award-winning software, first released in October 1985, was selected the following month by *InfoWorld* magazine as Software Product of the Year, an honor it also received from *PC Magazine*, which gave Javelin its Award for Technical Excellence. Other kudos followed from *Software News*, and other industry publications, including praise for the later versions, Javelin 1.1 and Javelin PLUS. All Javelin products require 512K of free memory.

Javelin is an excellent tool for budgeting, consolidations, project costing, financial planning and forecasting, according to Robert Weissman, Javelin's director of sales and marketing. "More specifically," he adds, "marketing managers use it for sales planning and tracking, bankers for credit analysis and asset and liability management, controllers and financial officers for cost analysis, creation of budgets and comparison of budgets to actuals. It's been shown to be a fine tool for use in both large and small businesses."

Weissman says Javelin 1.1 is "a powerful, easy-to-use tool for the person who generally analyzes numbers and does not need database capabilities for budgeting, forecasting, consolidation and reporting applications." He adds that Javelin PLUS, with its additional data handling capabilities, is for those working both with numbers and non-numeric information, such as customer names, dates, stock or product names, or addresses that must be included as data in an analytic model.

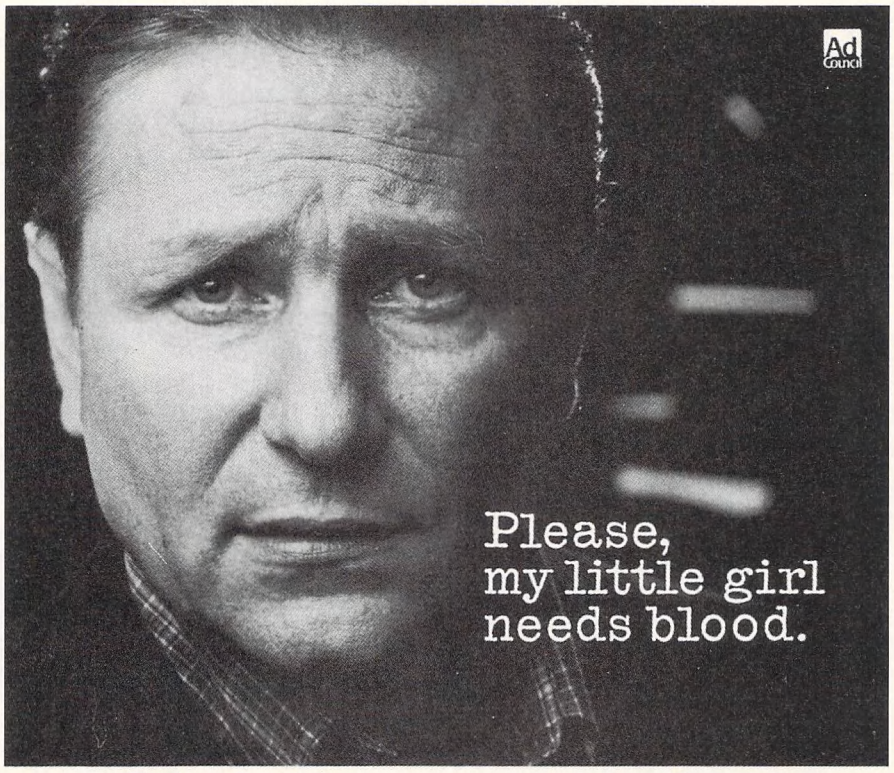
"Systems buildings, template developers and MIS departments will choose Javelin PLUS for its open architecture and systems building features," he explains. "Javelin PLUS is compatible with the earlier version, so if you've created models with Javelin 1.1, they will be completely accepted by Javelin PLUS." The open architecture design of Javelin PLUS includes add-in tools for scenario analysis, designing and implementing data entry forms, and for additional statistical analysis power. Among the 75 new features on Javelin PLUS are date variables, string variables, date and string functions, database features, new improved graphs and an all new reference manual.

Both Javelin products are supported on the forum, which features nine sections: general information, Javelin 1.1 support, business applications, using macros, special uses, template products, Javelin PLUS support, a suggestion box and a "members' lounge" for informal chats about the products.

"The data library is called the 'parts counter'," Johnson explains. "It's where we put all the new and improved drivers and other improved elements of Javelin products."

He adds that conferences with outside financial analysis experts and members with special expertise, clinics for users at all levels and other topics of interest to members will begin soon. Johnson, who founded the forum, says, "Its development has exceeded my expectations—it's turned into a fine community. Visitors will find it's a warm environment for getting support—we have 1,200 members and are still growing. As we develop more products, we expect to have even more services for forum members."

For more information about the Javelin Forum or Javelin products, leave a message for Alec Johnson in the forum (GO JAVELIN) or call 800-JAVELIN (in Massachusetts, call 617/494-1400).



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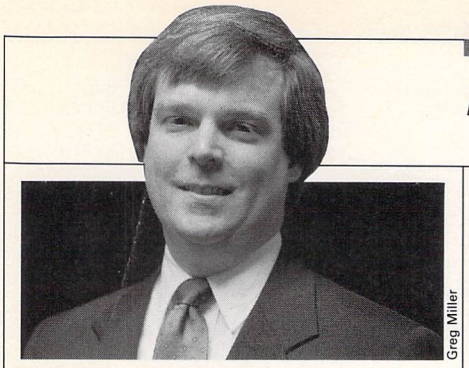

Greg Miller

Keeping investors current: *Clyde*

PC Quote Provides Speedy Service

Last summer, in order to keep up with increasing stock market volatility, CompuServe enlisted PC Quote as its new supplier for stock quotes. That decision enabled CompuServe to provide timely quotes even on the record-breaking trading days last fall, according to John Edwards, financial product specialist.

He says quotes are available to subscribers in the normal 20-minute delay. "Although the stock exchange sometimes delays its reporting on record-setting trading days, PC Quote has kept us current," Edwards says. "As soon as a quote is sent, PC Quote is able to handle it."

In 1983, CompuServe was one of the pioneers in providing delayed stock quotes to online investors. But because tracking volumes rarely exceeded 100 million shares then, it became obvious that new technology would be required to keep pace with the increased transaction volatility.

"We saw that the market volatility was going up and we needed technology in place that would do the job," Edwards explains. "We never predicted that the market would trade 500 million shares," he adds, referring to the record-setting trading volume of October, 1987.

As information supplier for CompuServe's Quick Quote service, PC Quote provides quotes on all US equities and options, as well as technical information. The service covers thousands of equity issues traded in the major North American exchanges and over-the-counter. Through the new information supplier, Quick Quote users now have access to continuous calculations of many market indexes, including advancing/declining issues and issues traded. Also included are data on foreign currency exchange rates and information on mutual and money market funds, such as net asset value, offered prices and seven-day yields.

PC Quote offers error-free satellite transmission and a flexible database for increased stock quote speed and reliability. CompuServe has added hardware and software enhancements that contribute to the improved timeliness of quotes available through the service. A second mainframe computer has been put into service, doubling the number of customers who can simultaneously log onto Quick Quote.

"We are pleased to be associated with PC Quote," says Scott Clyde, manager of financial products for the CompuServe Information Service. "In three years the company has become recognized as one of Wall Street's most reliable providers of securities pricing information. The teaming of PC Quote and CompuServe strengthens our leadership in consumer financial information."

To access Quick Quote, type GO QQUOTE at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

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Ask Customer Service

Q: I'm interested in downloading games from CompuServe and playing them offline at my leisure. Where can I find games that I can download?

A: There are many areas online that contain games and other programs that you can download and use offline, including The Gamers' Forum (GO GAMERS), Public Access (GO ACCESS) and many hardware-specific forums.

Q: Does the baud rate at which I access the service have any influence on my success with some of the multiplayer games?

A: CompuServe's multiplayer games are designed so that subscribers who play at different baud rates have equal chances for success.

Q: I have noticed that some games suggest or require "cursor control" capability. How can I adapt my system to allow me to effectively participate in these games?

A: To get the most out of the CompuServe games requiring or suggesting cursor control, you need to use a communications software package that will emulate one of the terminal types supported by the game (i.e., VT52, VT100 and VIDTEX). Those terminal types are listed when you access the game. CompuServe's VIDTEX software works well with the CompuServe games suggesting or requiring cursor control. To see if VIDTEX is available for your computer system, type GO ORDER at any prompt.

Q: What type of games are available online to serve as a source of entertainment, enhance my knowledge and stimulate learning?

A: CompuServe offers several trivia games, including *You Guessed It!, Stage II* and *Science Trivia*. For a complete list of Trivia and Thought games, type GO TTGAMES at any prompt.

Q: As a new CompuServe subscriber, I would like to learn more about the games. What sources of help are available?

A: The Multi-Player Games Forum (GO MPGAMES), The Gamers' Forum (GO GAMERS) and the *CompuServe Games Guide* are excellent sources of information about games. The Multi-Player Games Forum allows you to communicate and share tips with players and developers of multiplayer games. CompuServe's single-player games are supported in The Gamers' Forum. The *Games Guide* provides detailed instructions for most CompuServe games. To order the guide, type GO ORDER at any prompt.

Q: I have some ideas for CompuServe games. Where should I submit this information?

A: CompuServe welcomes suggestions. Please send them to Customer Service through FEEDBACK so they may be forwarded to the games product manager.

—Dawn Fedrick and Dennis Fletcher

These answers and more are available in Customer Service's Question & Answer Database. You can find answers to questions about billing, logging on, using forums, sending EasyPlex messages, using the Personal File area, setting up a Personal Menu and more. Type GO QUESTIONS at any prompt on the CompuServe Information Service.

Gift of Time

Online Today offers subscribers the chance to win 10 hours of standard service connect time (a $60 value) by writing a 200-word essay on how they use CompuServe's Information Service.

The essay should be typed, double-spaced and sent to *Online Today*, CompuServe Incorporated, 5000 Arlington Centre Blvd., P.O. Box 20212, Columbus, OH 43220, or sent via EasyPlex to 70003,3246. Please include your full name, address and User ID number.

The winning essay will be published in *Online Today*.

Find Entertainment Online

Games. This one word explains why I use CompuServe. I am a college-educated person who is not ashamed to admit that I spend countless hours playing multiplayer games. After a long day at work, I find a great release when I play *MegaWars*. I get rid of my frustrations in a harmless, enjoyable manner.

I began with *MegaWars I* and soon learned how to play the game. Then, *MegaWars III* came along. This game is more complex, but has provided many more hours of entertainment. Not only can you shoot at other ships, but you also can capture and manage your own planets.

Perhaps the best aspect of these games is that you are playing with other subscribers. You can talk to them and even gang up on another unsuspecting soul. Multiplayer games have made arcade video games boring.

Bill Cowen
Nashville, Tenn.

Changing Your Password

The CompuServe Information Service urges its customers to change their passwords at least once a month.

The password should be a minimum of eight characters composed of two unrelated words separated by a symbol, for example: HOUSE*MAGNET.

To find out how to change your password, type GO PASSWORD.

Electronic Edition CompuServe News

Online Today Electronic Edition covers the online community. Whether it's a forum conference announcement, a special promotion or a new product introduction, you can read all about it in the *Electronic Edition*. To access news about the CompuServe community, type GO OLT-50 at any CompuServe Information Service prompt.

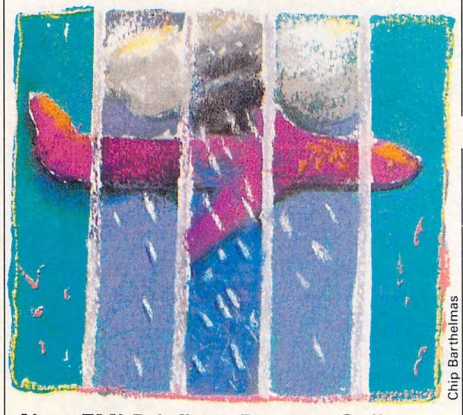
***COMPUSERVE UPDATE**	**OLT-50**
About Update	**OLT-60**
Community News	**OLT-80**
Conference Schedules	**OLT-120**
Letters to Editor	**OLT-30**
Online Inquiry	**OLI-1**
Online Today Guide	**OLT-351**
Previous Weeks' What's News	**OLT-270**
Shopper's Guide	**OLI-70**
Uploads Updates	**OLT-3700**
What's New	**OLT-70**

New PRODUCTS

Peterson's College Guide Updated

High school students and parents concerned about college can access the 1988 edition of Peterson's College Database on CompuServe.

Peterson's College Database can help you to finalize a college list and check college expenses or create a preliminary list of colleges with important characteristics including location, size, entrance difficulty and majors. You can also write for college catalogs and plan campus visits online. GO PETERSON



Chip Barthelmas

New EMI Briefings Reports Online

EMI AEROCORP Inc. announces the addition of radar reports to its en route weather briefing, Aerobrief.

Radar Reports for selected en route reporting stations now are presented automatically to give the pilot an extra tool in pinpointing potentially hazardous weather conditions along an intended route.

The new reports are presented just before the en route winds aloft forecasts in Aerobrief, which is available by itself or as part of an EMI Flight Plan. The Radar Reports have also been added to EMI's Abbreviated Local Summary. GO EMI-6

One of the EMI Flight Plans has also been improved. In response to user suggestions, Aerovor is now "smarter" in its automatic selection of airways. GO EMI-14

British Legends Now Online

CompuServe announces a new multiplayer adventure game called *British Legends*. *British Legends* players compete and cooperate to earn points and raise the status of their characters to "wizard" or "witch." For help in playing the game, visit Subtopic 9 in the Multi-Player Games Forum (GO MPGAMES) and leave a message. GO LEGENDS

Chip Barthelmas

100 Stories in West Coast Travel

West Coast Travel now offers 100 consumer travel articles about 13 western states with the addition of an article on New Mexico.

Lee Foster, professional travel writer, wrote the articles based on his travels throughout the West. Foster's articles on travel outside of the West are available in Adventures in Travel. GO AIT.

Vendor Support in Gamers' Forum

The Gamers' Forum now offers a vendor support area allowing CompuServe subscribers and game company representatives to communicate.

The forum's Subtopic 14 and Data Library 14 feature new product and conversion announcements, bug reports and repairs, industry news, press releases, and other information exchanges among players and game companies.

Participating companies include Datasoft, Electronic Arts, Infocom, Interplay Productions, New World Computing, Sierra On-Line, Sir-Tech and many others that regularly respond to forum members' questions.

Featured games include *Wizardry, Alternate Reality, Lurking Horror, Space Quest, Leisure Suit Larry* and *The Bard's Tale*. Additionally, many game company newsletters are available in *The Electronic Gamer* magazine (GO TEG). GO GAMERS

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Dean Witter Reynolds	72	180	360

(Telephone survey 8/87)

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Migent Pocket Modem

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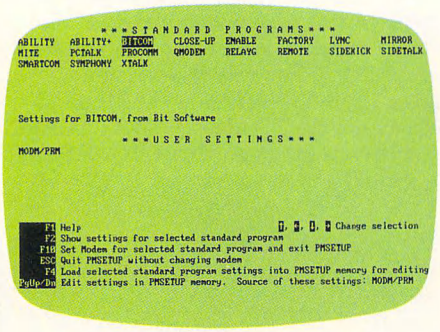
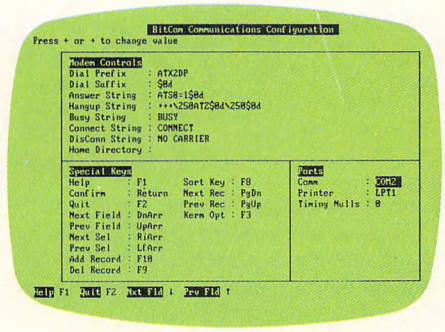
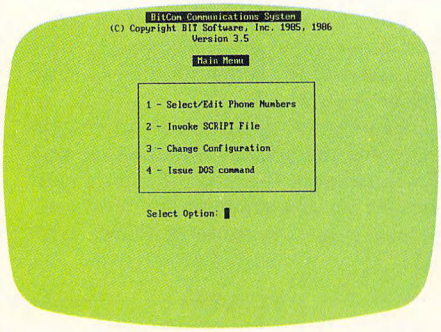
Migent Inc.
865 Tahoe Blvd.
P.O. Box 6062
Incline Village, NV 89450-6062
702/832-3725 or 800/633-3444

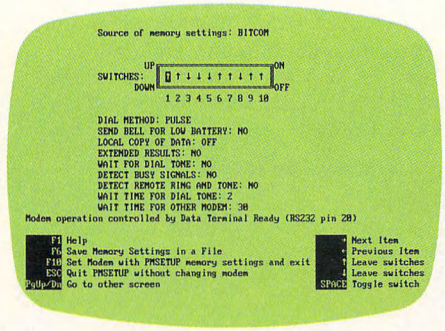
Computer: Any IBM-compatible desktop or laptop computer.
Operating System: MS-DOS or PC-DOS version 2.0 or higher with at least one diskette drive for modem set-up and communications software.
Features: Compact battery-powered 300/1200 baud external modem compatible with Bell 103/212 standards; compatible with Hayes Smartmodem and Hayes AT command set; busy and dial-tone monitoring; modular "line" and "phone" plugs; 25-pin RS-232C connector; pulse and tone auto-dialing, auto-answer capability; includes BitCom communications software.
Options: Available accessories include 9 VDC battery eliminator, 7-foot telephone cord, 18-inch DB-25 (male) to DB-25 (female) extension cable, 18-inch DB-25 (male) to DB-9 (female) adapter cable for PC-AT style serial ports, carrying case.
Model Tested: Pocket Modem installed on 640K Toshiba T1100 Plus Portable Personal Computer, 1024K Proteus 286GT (12MHz PC-AT compatible) and 640K Compaq Deskpro computers using serial ports provided by computers or expansion cards.
List Price: $259.99, including software.

Reviewed by Ernest E. Mau


STANDARD PROGRAMS
ABILITY ABILITY+ BITCOM CLOSE-UP EMABLE FACTORY LYNC MIRROR
MITE PCTALK PROCOMM QMODEM RELAYG REMOTE SIDEKICK SIDETALK
SMARTCOM SYMPHONY XTALK
Settings for BITCOM, from Bit Software
USER SETTINGS
MODM/PRM
F1 Help
F2 Show settings for selected standard program
F10 Set Modem for selected standard program and exit PMSETUP
ESC Quit PMSETUP without changing modem
F6 Load selected standard program settings into PMSETUP memory for editing
PgUp/Dn Edit settings in PMSETUP memory. Source of these settings: MODM/PRM






Source of memory settings: BITCOM
SWITCHES: UP DOWN ON OFF
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
DIAL METHOD: PULSE
SEND BELL FOR LOW BATTERY: NO
LOCAL COPY OF DATA: OFF
EXTENDED RESULTS: NO
WAIT FOR DIAL TONE: NO
DETECT BUSY SIGNALS: NO
DETECT REMOTE RING AND TONE: NO
WAIT TIME FOR DIAL TONE: 2
WAIT TIME FOR OTHER MODEM: 30
Modem operation controlled by Data Terminal Ready (RS232 pin 20)
F1 Help
F5 Save Memory Settings in a File
F10 Set Modem with PMSETUP memory settings and exit
ESC Quit PMSETUP without changing modem
PgUp/Dn Go to other screen
↓ Next Item
↑ Previous Item
→ Leave switches
← Leave switches
SPACE Toggle switch

When buying a modem, one often must choose between internal or external models. Internal modems conveniently go where the computer goes, but external modems can be moved quickly from machine to machine, minimizing the hardware investment for multiple computers. Yet it seems ridiculous to carry an external modem that's a third the size of a laptop computer. Besides, conventional modems require AC power that limits portability, while internal modems for laptops draw on the computer's battery and shorten the computing time per charge.

Migent's Pocket Modem packs a 300/1200 baud Hayes-compatible modem into a unit not much larger than a pack of cigarettes and runs from a standard 9-volt alkaline battery easily installed under a sliding cover. As its name suggests, it fits into a shirt pocket.

The modernistic case has a 25-pin female connector at one end that can attach directly to a standard 25-pin male serial port. At the other end, a miniature plug can connect to a 9-volt battery eliminator, and two modular telephone jacks provide line and telephone set connections.

Installation is simple. Slip the modem onto the computer's serial port, tighten two built-in thumbscrews and plug in the telephone line. For computers having 9-pin serial ports or for users who prefer connection via a cable, accessory cables may be used between the modem and computer.

The Pocket Modem has no speaker, indicators or physical switches. Ten standard Hayes-style switch settings needed by various communications programs are controlled via special PMSETUP software and stored in non-volatile modem memory. A new setup program (version 0.6), released in August 1987, simplifies setup procedures and cures problems with earlier setup programs that didn't get along well with some high-speed computers.

The new setup program lets users pick from 19 predesigned configurations for software such as BitCom, Lync, Mirror, SideKick, Smartcom, Symphony, Crosstalk and others. For those preferring software for which setups aren't provided, such as CompuServe's Professional Connection, it is necessary to isolate a compatible configuration or to create a new one using PMSETUP's interactive mode.

Additionally, PMSETUP performs checksum and loopback tests, and it lets the user select the dialing method, activate or deactivate a bell signal for low battery warning, set wait times and so on.

Pocket Modem runs smoothly. Using a dozen communications programs and assorted error-correcting protocols, I've uploaded and downloaded several hundred megabytes without problems. A few transmission errors were detected and corrected by software protocols, but no more than with other modems. Pocket Modem seems as immune to ordinary line noise, local interference and other problems as any modem I've used.

There is one annoyance, however. There is no power switch. Unless a battery eliminator is connected, bypassing the battery, the modem draws power whenever it is connected to a computer and the computer is turned on. Although officially rated for 10 or more hours of operating time per bat

tery, I've found that real operating time varies by battery brand and storage time. Even at 10 hours, however, battery life may be too short for a heavy user, and battery costs are higher than I'd like. I'd have preferred a small switch on the modem to manually power down and extend battery life.

The BitCom software (version 3.5) accompanying the modem is adequate for basic communications. It provides a dialing directory and a competent scripting language. It supports COM1 through COM4 modem ports, transmission speeds to 19,200 baud, screen "snapshots" printing, selectable character and line delays for ASCII data streams, append or replace capture modes, terminal emulations (ANSI, IBM 3101, DEC VT100A and DEC VT100B) and other functions.

But BitCom has only two error-correcting protocols for file transfers, namely XMODEM and Kermit. Both work, and XMODEM is relaxed enough to function with commercial services such as CompuServe even during busy periods with slow system responses. Kermit protocol proved a little tricky with CompuServe's InfoPlex system. It kept aborting the transfers until I learned to rely on InfoPlex for sending the filename instead of entering a filename within BitCom itself.

BitCom seems a good starter program, but many users may decide to replace it with something more powerful as their needs grow. I didn't feel the software particularly added to or detracted from the modem.

Nevertheless, Migent's Pocket Modem is an attractive package built around a reliable modem with the portability we've needed for a long time. If one can afford the batteries while away from AC power, it is a practical and useful device.

Ernest E. Mau, a full-time, free-lance writer and Online Today *reviews editor, is based in Aurora, Colo. He is the author of several books and nearly 300 articles on microcomputer products and applications.*

Trademarks: BitCom (Bit Software Inc.); Compaq and Deskpro (Compaq Computer Corp.); CompuServe, InfoPlex and The Professional Connection (CompuServe Incorporated); Crosstalk (Digital Communications Associates Inc.); IBM, IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and PC-DOS (International Business Machines Corp.); Lync (Norton-Lambert Corp.); Migent and Pocket Modem (Migent Inc.); Mirror (SoftKlone Distributing Corp.); MS-DOS (Microsoft Inc.); SideKick (Borland International Inc.); Smartmodem and Smartcom II (Hayes Microcomputing Products Inc.) Symphony (Lotus Development Corp.).

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Electronic Edition Hardware Reviews

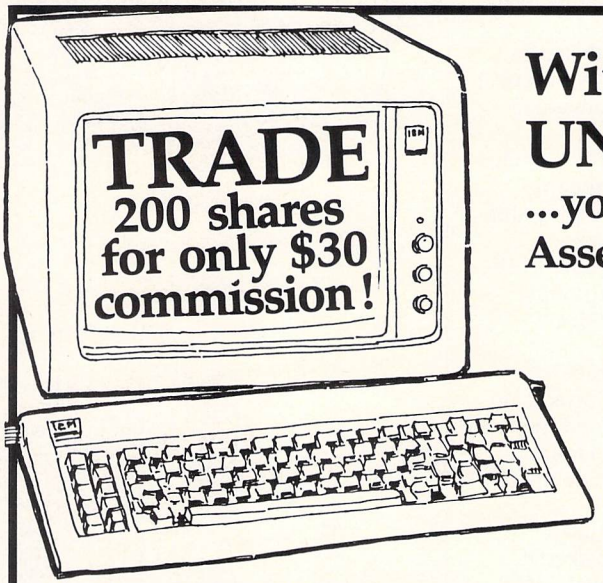
The following hardware reviews are available this month on *Online Today Electronic Edition* (GO OLT-220).

IMSI Mouse
Manufacturer: *IMSI*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

BOCARAM/AT Memory Extension/ Expansion Card
Manufacturer: *Boca Research Inc.*
Computers: *IBM PC-AT and 80286-based compatibles.*

EGA By BOCA Graphics Card
Manufacturer: *Boca Research Inc.*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

PMI Fastcard IV Multifunction Card
Manufacturer: *Peripheral Marketing*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*



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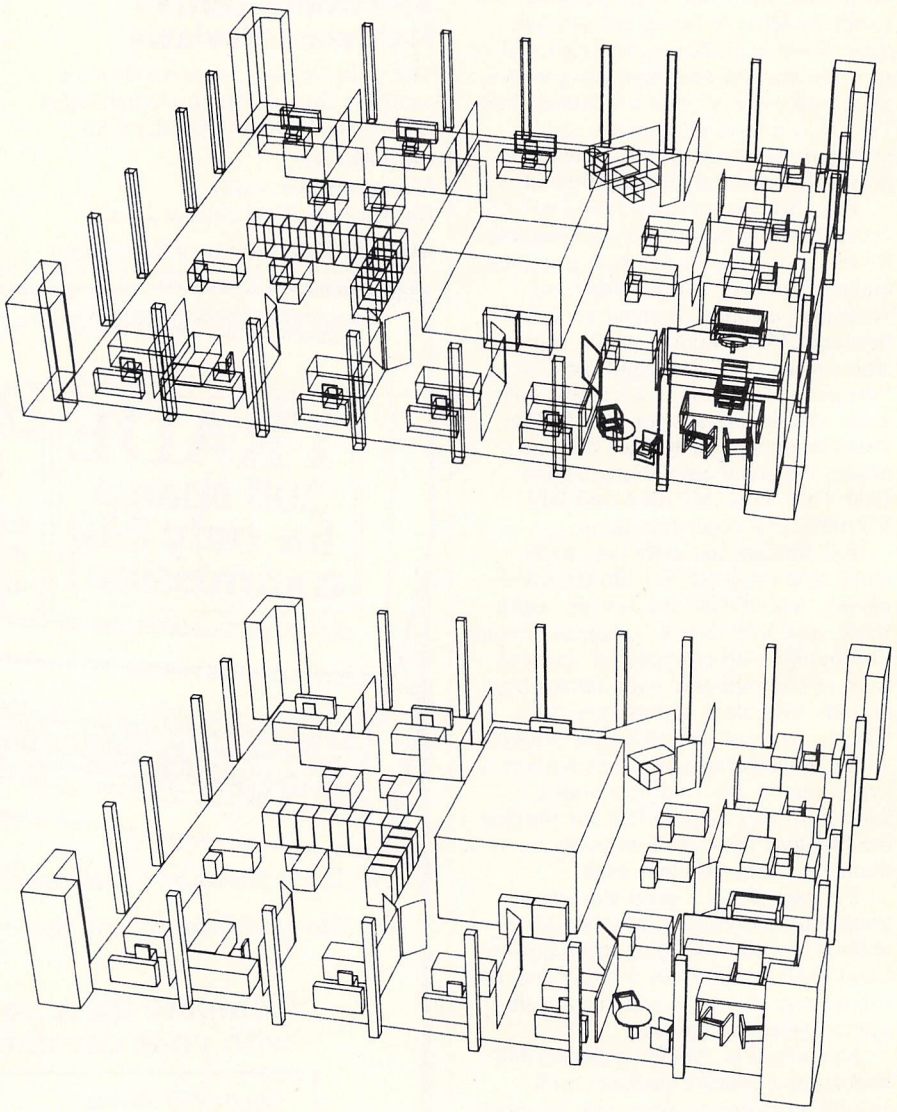
Drafix 3D Modeler

Adds a New Dimension to Design Facilities

Foresight Resources Corp.
932 Massachusetts
Lawrence, KS 66044
913/841-1121 or 800/231-8574

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT, PS/2 and most MS-DOS compatibles.
Operating Systems: PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 2.1 or higher.
Media: Supplied on three diskettes; needs two diskette drives as practical minimum; hard disk recommended.
Copy Protection: None.
Required Peripherals: Color or monochrome monitor with video card (supports numerous color and monochrome cards).
Other Requirements: Minimum 512K RAM (640K recommended); must have Drafix 1 or Drafix 1 Plus software.
Optional Items: Math coprocessor recommended; dot-matrix printer or plotter (numerous brands and models supported via Drafix 1 or Drafix 1 Plus); Microsoft Mouse or compatible pointing device.
Systems used for test: (1) 1024K Proteus 286GT with two diskette drives, 20MB hard disk, dual 15MB Sysgen DuraPak drives, 10-MHz 80287 math coprocessor, 256K STB Systems EGA Plus video adapter, Amdek Color 722 EGA monitor and Torrington Manager Mouse; running IBM PC-DOS 3.1 at 12MHz. (2) 640K Compaq Deskpro with two diskette drives, dual 10MB IOMEGA Bernoulli Box drives, 8087/2 math coprocessor, Video-7 Vega Deluxe video adapter, NEC MultiSync monitor and Maynard Mouse; running Compaq MS-DOS 3.1 at 7.44MHz. (3) Computers share Epson FX-85 printer and Hewlett-Packard 7475A plotter.
List Price: $295

Reviewed by Ernest E. Mau



Drafix 3D Modeler (version 5V1.01) creates and manipulates three-dimensional models of structures. It adds depth to the excellent Drafix 1 and Drafix 1 Plus software reviewed in *Online Today*'s March 1987 electronic and December 1987 print editions.

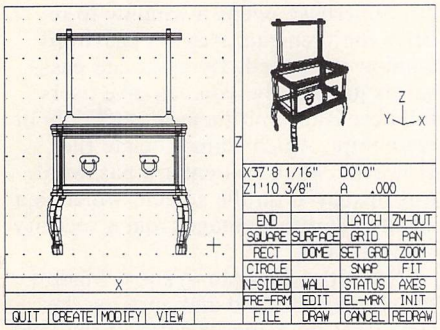
A specially adapted and privately labeled Mega CADD program, 3D Modeler isn't a stand-alone product and relies on having a $195 Drafix 1 or $295 Drafix 1 Plus package for device drivers. The Modeler cannot be installed without a Drafix base package, and hard-disk users must put 3D Modeler in the Drafix subdirectory. Similarly, Modeler has no printing or plotting capabilities of its own, so drawings must be output to disk files and then imported into Drafix for output to paper.

Also, the Modeler has no colored lines, no text facilities, no shading, no hatching and no item dimensioning. Such trimmings must be added with Drafix.

Users accustomed to Drafix may be disappointed by 3D Modeler's screens. It has an unexpectedly coarse display compared with Drafix, and the user interface is totally different. Where Drafix relies on tidy menu bars that leave most of the screen for drawing display and manipulation, 3D Modeler takes one-third to one-half of the screen for oversized menus and packs two to four viewing windows into the remaining space. While a user can zoom views within any window, the windows cannot be resized and cannot be made to occupy the whole screen to provide a larger overall image that might ease structure placement.

Nevertheless, 3D Modeler provides excellent tools for creating, modifying and combining structures.

Create mode displays one wireframe planar view (top, front or side) on the left half of the screen and a wireframe perspective view in the upper right quarter. Menu selected shapes include surfaces, squares, rectangles, spherical



domes, regular polygons (three to 64 sides), walls and free-form shapes. To create a block, say as a building outline, place a rectangle shape on the planar view, using a grid with selectable spacing and with or without point snapping if desired. Pointing to top and bottom locations provides the needed height. The perspective view appears quickly in the upper right window.

Modify mode displays four small wireframe views (top, front, side and perspective) all within the left half of the screen. This mode provides tools for rotating, moving, scaling, projecting faces and performing other operations, but probably is the most difficult mode to manipulate because of the small window sizes.

View mode fills the left half of the screen with a wireframe perspective view and puts a smaller plan view in the upper right quarter. Menu selections change the viewpoint, rotate or move the item, etc. Rotating 180 degrees around the Z axis, for example, could change from looking at an object's front left corner to looking at the back right corner. True three-dimensional perspective has lines converging on vanishing points, so structures look "real" when compared with pseudo-3D views used by some other packages.

Other facilities prepare curved surfaces; "latch" structures to share common points, lines or faces; set elevation marks for precisely positioning one item onto another; apply either of two algorithms for removing hidden lines; control space and clipping planes; create objects with holes (such as nuts for machine bolts); save and recall "components"; "walk through" objects; and so on.

The 3D Modeler is surprisingly quick and responsive even for complex drawings. Screen redraws are done quickly. Removing hidden lines for realistic on-screen display or for output to disk goes amazingly fast, without long waiting times like those I've come to expect aafter using AutoCAD's hidden line removals.

Like any three-dimensional package, this one takes time to learn, and the user needs a good feeling for spatial orientation. The learning curve isn't helped by a manual written for the Mega CADD program and not totally adapted to the 3D Modeler variation.

Some advanced modeling instructions are particularly troublesome, as in the section for plotting three orthogonal views and one perspective view of one model on a single sheet. As written, the instructions don't apply because Modeler doesn't plot directly. Extrapolating from the instructions, exporting individual views and combining them within Drafix takes some imagination and a lot of work. At that, Drafix 1 sometimes doesn't have enough elbowroom in memory to accommodate four complex views, such as wireframes on a single drawing sheet.

In all, however, Drafix 3D Modeler is impressive and greatly extends the capabilities of the Drafix 1 software lineup. And it does so at a reasonable price. Given the willingness to tolerate display-size limitations and the inconvenience of moving drawings to a separate program for polishing and plotting, anyone needing three-dimensional CAD capabilities should be able to make good use of this program.

Ernest E. Mau, a full-time, free-lance writer and Online Today *reviews editor, is based in Aurora, Colo. He is the author of several books and nearly 300 articles on microcomputer products and applications.*

Trademarks: AutoCAD (Autodesk Inc.); Compaq and Deskpro (Compaq Computer Corp.); Drafix (Foresight Resources Corp.); DuraPak (Sysgen Inc.); EGA Plus (STB Systems Inc.); Epson and Epson FX (Epson America Inc.); IBM, PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and PC-DOS (International Business Machines Corp.); IOMEGA and Bernoulli Box (IOMEGA Corp.); Manager Mouse (The Torrington Co.); MS-DOS (Microsoft Inc.); MultiSync (Nippon Electric Corp.); Proteus 286GT (Wintech Data Products Corp.); Vega Deluxe (Video-7 Inc.).

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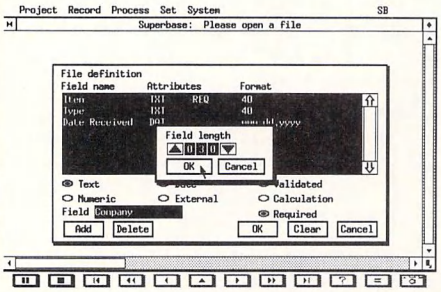

Superbase Personal:

A GEM of a Database Management System

Progressive Peripherals & Software
464 Kalamath St.
Denver, CO 80204
303/825-4144

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles; also available for Commodore C64, C128 or Amiga and for Atari ST.
Operating Systems: PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 2.0 and higher; also available for Commodore or Atari GEM.
Media: IBM version requires two 360K diskette drives or one diskette drive and a fixed disk.
Copy Protection: None.
Required Peripherals: Graphics card (CGA, EGA or Hercules Graphics Card) and pointing device (Microsoft serial or bus mouse, Summa Mouse, Summa Sketch).
Other Requirements: Minimum 512K RAM; GEM Desktop.
Optional Items: Printer.
System used for test: 640K Compaq Portable Computer with one 360K diskette drive, one 30MB hard disk, Microsoft Serial Mouse and Hewlett-Packard LaserJet printer.
List Price: $99.95 without GEM Desktop or $149.95 with GEM Desktop.

Reviewed by Harry Green

Once you've tried Superbase Personal, you'll concede that if nothing else, it is the most unusual database management system you've ever used. That is because it operates under GEM Desktop, a DOS shell program that makes an IBM-style personal computer function like an Apple Macintosh. GEM Desktop displays files, programs, disks and directories as icons. Files are opened, programs are started, menus are pulled down and commands are executed by clicking a mouse button.

When a database is opened under Superbase (version 1.027), it can be viewed in one of three modes. A form view arranges the screen like a form an operator would use for entering data. A record view is similar except that input fields are compressed in a single column. A table view displays the database like a spreadsheet.

An external file-management system lets you store graphics or textfiles and access them through Superbase. The program comes with several text images that can be called through the menus and displayed on a split screen. Graphic images can be created with Gem Desktop or called from its extensive library of images. ASCII textfiles also can be displayed.

A row of mouse-selected icons representing the buttons on a tape recorder appears across the bottom of the screen. The center button selects the current record. Buttons to either side select the next and previous records. Next to these are fast-forward and rewind buttons that scroll forward and backward until you reach the end of the file or click the stop or pause buttons. The method is different from any DBMS I've seen, yet once I became comfortable with the controls, I found the method effective in scanning a file.

One control icon is a filter button and presents a window for entering file search criteria. The window's left side lists the fields in the database. The opposite side contains 16 filter operators, such as "less than," "equal to," and "like," that are used for developing a search argument. A typical filter might be "ZIP code > 5,000 and balance < $4,000." The search routine is almost foolproof because Superbase leads you through most of the process; you can't make a typing error on a field you select with a mouse button.

In the table view, Superbase displays 80 columns, but scroll bars can move the screen to the right to view other parts of the database. You also can drag a field to the left with the mouse to compress a field so you can see more of the database on a single screen. Of course, this truncates the previous field, but the information is easily displayed by restoring the column to its original position and scrolling the database again.

A new database is created with procedures similar to conventional DBMS programs except for the use of the mouse and Superbase's menus. When the "new file" option is selected, Superbase opens a window to receive the filename. Next, a password window is opened. By assigning passwords judiciously, you can give users full access or limit them to read-only or read/write, which cannot delete files. However, when you enter a password, it is displayed on the screen, which is a significant disadvantage from a security standpoint.

Next, the program opens a window for naming the field and entering the type (text, numeric or date). If the field requires calculation, a window is opened to let you specify the formula. Another window is opened to designate which fields will be indexed. The field definition process is easy to follow, and like other procedures, it is difficult to foul up and easy to change if you manage to define it incorrectly. Input screens are particularly effective because you can position blocks where you want by dragging them into position with the mouse.

A Query function is used to define reports. A window is opened to enter the report title, fields to print and the order to present them. A filter window similar to the search window is presented for restricting the records included in the report. Calculations can be specified to derive report fields as a function of other fields in the database. It also is possible to link files relationally to create a report from several files.

If a program can at once be unique and conventional, Superbase has achieved it. Superbase includes the conventional functions of a DBMS, but it presents them in a manner unlike any other program on the market. Most programs operating under GEM Desktop lose GEM's basic structure, but Superbase is effectively integrated. If you're a GEM Desktop enthusiast, Superbase is an excellent program, but if you prefer to communicate with DOS directly, you'll probably prefer a more conventional DBMS.

Harry Green is a free-lance writer from Portland, Ore. He writes about telecommunications, office automation and personal computer-related topics. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,431.

Trademarks: Apple and Macintosh (Apple Computer Inc.); Compaq and Compaq Portable Computer (Compaq Computer Corp.); GEM and GEM Desktop (Digital Research Inc.); Hercules Graphics Card (Hercules Computer Technology); IBM, IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and PC-DOS (International Business Machines Corp.); LaserJet (Hewlett-Packard Corp.); MS-DOS (Microsoft Corp.); Superbase (Precision Software Ltd.).

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The Super Modem 2400 automatically adjusts itself to match terminal's (or computer's) baud rate, parity and stop bits. The default setting is CCITT 2,400 bps but all parameters can be changed in the modem's non-volatile memory by using the extended "AT" command set. 11 status LED's are provided: Auto answer, off hook, high speed, DSR, RTS, DCD, TD, RD, RI, CTS and DTR. Switches are provided for constant carrier, holding DTR high, crossing pins 2 and 3, 11 bit characters and auto answer.

The modem is fully compatible with the Hayes® "AT" command set at all speeds and uses the new Hayes® 2400 commands for synchronous operation making the Super Modem 2400 compatible with virtually all IBM PC communications software. An internal speaker with software selectable volume is included. The Super Modem 2400 has an on-line help screen which shows communication parameters.

Super Modem 2400 Specifications

OPERATION: Full duplex sync or async on 2 wires
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MODULATION: FSK and PSK
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EQUALIZATION: Automatic adaptive
DIAGNOSTICS: Self test, local and remote analog and digital loopback
DCE interface (stand alone models) EIA RS232C
VF interface 10 foot cable with RJ-11 jack. FCC approved
DIMENSIONS: 8½" x 6¼" x 1½" – weight 1.5 lbs. (0.69 Kg.)

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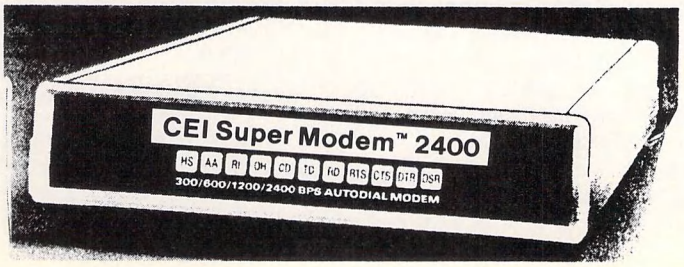

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ASCII Express MouseTalk

Provides Mouse-Based Telecommunications

United Software Industries
8399 Topanga Canyon Blvd., #200
Canoga Park, CA 91304
818/887-5800 or 800/332-7244

Computers: Apple IIc and IIe (enhanced); Apple IIgs.
Operating Systems: Apple ProDOS.
Media: Program comes in both 5.25-inch and 3.5-inch diskette formats and requires at least one diskette drive.
Copy Protection: None.
Required Peripherals: External Hayes-compatible modem.
Other Requirements: Minimum 128K RAM.
Optional Items: Printer; a mouse is not required but is strongly recommended.
System used for test: Apple IIc with Apple Mouse, Apple Modem and Epson FX-85 printer.
List Price: $99.95

Reviewed by Brian D. Monahan

Getting started with ASCII Express MouseTalk is easy. For an Apple IIc, the set-up procedure is especially easy, and directions for other types of Apple computers are clear. Once the modem and mouse are properly connected, the program can be started, and the user is led through the installation process. All choices are presented on screen and can be made by "clicking" the mouse on an appropriate choice. The manual provides instructions for first-time mouse users.

Throughout the program, choices are made by clicking on appropriate menu items. To start communications, one pulls down the phone and chooses the "dial" command. A phone number is entered from the keyboard. Pauses are entered into the number by using commas. Tone or pulse dialing, waiting time and a redial option are selected from the opening screen.

The MouseTalk manual is excellent. It is both a clear, step-by-step guide to the use of this program and an introduction to the capabilities of computer communication. It includes information on accessing both commercial and non-commercial communications services and has several sign-up kits to get you started.

Much of MouseTalk's versatility is achieved by pulling down a session menu. Settings therein describe the characteristics of the computer system with which you'll be communicating, but default values often will be adequate to get beginning users started.

MouseTalk provides a full set of file commands. Standard operating system functions such as deleting and renaming files can be accomplished from within the program. By pulling down the file menu, it is possible to view any textfile that is on the disk and to move through a disk's subdirectories. MouseTalk also lets users work on files using a built-in text editor. Although that editor doesn't contain a full set of word processing commands, it is relatively sophisticated. The available functions let users move text, search for characters and take advantage of a "clipboard." Simple printing also is supported.

Data transfer are what computer communications are all about, and MouseTalk provides outstanding capabilities. Textfiles are easy to transfer, and uploading and downloading to CompuServe is accomplished with ease. Transferring non-textfiles often presents more of a problem. MouseTalk offers only one error-correcting protocol, XMODEM. Fortunately, that's a widely used protocol even though XMODEM transfers do not always go smoothly. With this program, they did. On several occasions, a spreadsheet file was uploaded to and downloaded from CompuServe without error.

MouseTalk provides sophisticated features that advanced users expect but of which many users never take advantage. Communications with MouseTalk is automated by creating macros that cause several commands to be executed with a single keystroke. A macro editor that includes all editing commands from the previously mentioned text editor makes it easy to create and change macros. The examples provided include macros for logging on and off and for sending and receiving text.

The more advanced features of MouseTalk also include a terminal emulation screen that lets users choose the terminal they wish to emulate from choices presented on a pull-down menu. A full-featured answer mode that lets the Apple function as a remote computer system completes the advanced capabilities offered by MouseTalk. When setting the computer to operate as a remote system, users can determine exactly how much access will be given to those that call in.

MouseTalk is a powerful, well-designed communications program. All users will find its manual to be first class and the user interface exceptionally friendly. Other communications programs provide equivalent features, but users who wish to use a mouse will find MouseTalk an excellent choice.

Brian D. Monahan is an associate professor and coordinator of graduate programs in the computer science department at Iona College, New Rochelle, N.Y. He also is deputy mayor of Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. Monahan's areas of interest are educational computing and the use of computers in government. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,3000.

Trademarks: Apple, Apple IIc, Apple IIe and ProDOS (Apple Computer Inc.); ASCII Express and MouseTalk (United Software Industries Inc.); CompuServe (CompuServe Incorporated); Epson FX (Epson America Inc.); Hayes (Hayes Microcomputer Products Inc.).

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Dome Simplified Bookkeeping System

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603/889-5400

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles; Apple IIe and IIc; Commodore 64 and 128; Tandy 1000, 1200 and 3000.
Operating Systems: PC-DOS or MS-DOS; Commodore, Apple and CP/M systems.
Media: IBM PC version requires two diskette drives or one diskette drive and a hard disk.
Copy Protection: Uncopyable; original program disk must be in drive A to start program.
Required Peripherals: None.
Other Requirements: Minimum 256K RAM for IBM or Tandy versions; 64K for Commodore and Apple versions.
Optional Items: Printer recommended.
System used for test: 640K IBM PC-XT with Hercules Graphics Card Plus, two diskette drives, Maynard 20MB hard disk and Okidata Microline 84 printer; running PC-DOS 3.1.
List Price: $39.95 (must be purchased annually).

Reviewed by William J. Lynott

You've probably seen those little Dome bookkeeping manuals that have been sold by the millions in stationery stores over the past 40 years. For own-

ers of very small businesses and sole proprietorships, they offer one of the easiest ways to maintain manual business records. Now the Dome system is offered as a software package for personal computer users.

The Dome Simplified Bookkeeping System has been faithfully modeled after its manual forerunner. Even the entry screens are designed to look like pages from the manual. The documentation also has been designed to resemble the original books, and like the manual system, the software is designed to be purchased annually. It will accommodate the basic bookkeeping needs of a small business with no more than eight employees.

After the program goes through its automated installation procedure, you'll be asked to specify weekly-based or monthly-based records, the fiscal year and several basic things about your hardware setup. Once that is done, you'll find the software just about as easy to use as the manual version. No accounting knowledge by the user is assumed.

A simple chart of 43 accounts is included. Each may be renamed, or you may add up your own to a total of 95 accounts.

The main Dome menu offers six choices: Expenses, Income, Payroll, Accounts, Reports, Setup and Quit. Each calls up a screen that displays a command line at the bottom with additional instructions. Income and expense screens are laid out to look like manual pages and ask for the same basic information. If you can't remember the proper account number for an income or expense entry, pressing the F1 key calls a list onto the screen.

Report capability is limited but appropriate for very small businesses. You may print out a statement of income and expenses (profit and loss) for any accounting period, a summary of receipts or expenses sorted by account or a payroll summary. You also can print a list of accounts.

The program does not calculate payroll deductions, nor does it automatically distribute them to the proper accounts. You must make those calculations manually before entry. However, the payroll summary will create a listing of gross pay, FICA, income tax and other deductions, plus net pay for each employee.

You'll want to remember that the Dome system is bookkeeping at its simplest, consisting of records of income and expense entered into the proper accounts. Many people feel that computerizing the records of a tiny business is more bother than it is worth, which probably is true for many accounting packages on the market. I believe, though, that the Dome Simplified Bookkeeping System is an exception. It is so easy to use that any extra bother is cancelled out by the quick and easy reports it makes available.

While this package offers only the bare skeleton of a true accounting system, it does boast a couple of nice goodies. A built-in calculator and a perpetual calendar can be called up at any time. They appear at lightning speed and can be dispensed with instantly when you're done using them.

Another nice touch is a memo feature. Anyone who has ever kept a manual bookkeeping system is familiar with those little notes and reminders we always seem to be writing in the margins. The Dome Simplified Bookkeeping System lets you write memos to yourself at any point, call them up or print them out.

If you've been toying with the idea of putting records for your small business on the computer, the Dome Simplified Bookkeeping System is about as painless a method as you're likely to find.

The annual purchase guarantees automatic updating, and the $40 initial price is relatively modest. Still, the need to purchase the program each year adds up to a significant sum over time. With many top accounting programs going for a one-time price under $200, the choice requires some thought.

However, the Dome Simplified Bookkeeping System is good for the business person who wants the satisfaction and convenience of computerized records without the need to invest much time and effort in the learning process.

William J. Lynott is president of W.J. Lynott Associates, a management consulting firm in suburban Philadelphia. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,420.

Trademarks: Apple IIe and Apple IIc (Apple Computer Inc.); CP/M (Digital Research Inc.); Dome Simplified Accounting System (Great American Software Inc.); Hercules Graphics Card Plus (Hercules Computer Technology); IBM, IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and PC-DOS (International Business Machines Corp.); MS-DOS (Microsoft Corp.); Okidata Microline (Okidata Div. of Oki America Inc.).

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Electronic Edition Software Reviews

The following software reviews are available this month on *Online Today Electronic Edition* by typing GO OLT-230 at any CompuServe Information Service prompt.

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Manufacturer: *SoftView Inc.*
Computers: *Apple Macintosh line.*

PageSetter/LaserScript Page Layout Programs
Manufacturer: *Gold Disk Inc.*
Computer: *Commodore Amiga.*

City Desk Amiga Desktop Publishing
Manufacturer: *MicroSearch Inc.*
Computer: *Commodore Amiga.*

Four Music Packages For Amiga
Manufacturers: *Aegis Development, Electronic Arts and Activision*
Computer: *Commodore Amiga.*

Boeing Graph 2D And 3D Charting Program
Manufacturer: *Boeing Computer Services*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

Freeway and Freeway Advanced Communications
Manufacturer: *Kortek Inc.*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

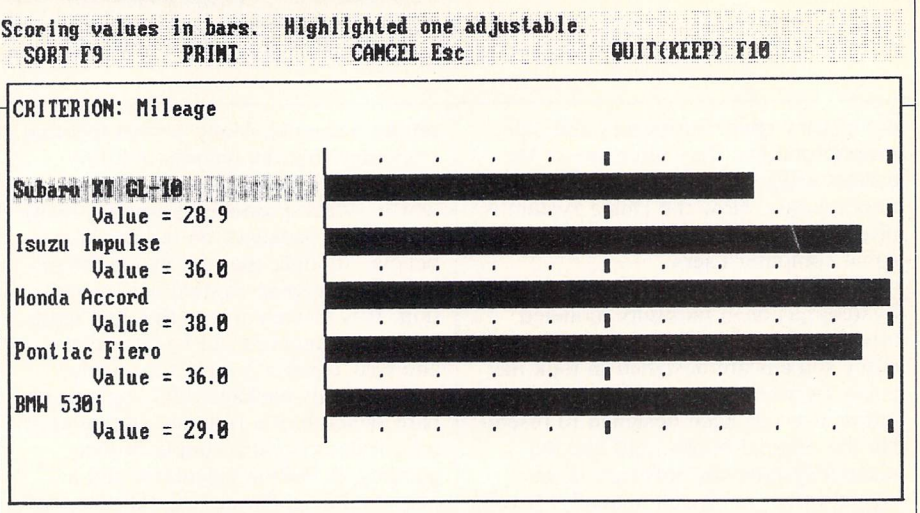
BRIEF 2.01 Programmer's Editor
Manufacturer: *Solution Systems Inc.*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

Time Line Graphics 1.1 Project Management Plotting
Manufacturer: *Breakthrough Software*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

Display Master EGA Screen Controller
Manufacturer: *Intersecting Concepts*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

TeleWriter II Communications Rereview
Manufacturer: *R&S Micro Services*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*

TeleMagic 8.2b Enhanced Telemarketing
Manufacturer: *Remote Control Computer Support Group*
Computers: *IBM compatibles.*



Decision Pad

Aids in Decision-Making Tasks

Apian Software
P.O. Box 1224
Menlo Park, CA 94026
415/851-8496

Computers: IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles.
Operating System: MS-DOS or PC-DOS version 2.0 or higher.
Media: Provided on two diskettes; requires two 360K diskette drives or one diskette drive and a hard disk.
Copy Protection: None.
Required Peripherals: None.
Other Requirements: Minimum 256K RAM.
Optional Items: Hard disk; color monitor (CGA or EGA); printer (supports various Epson, IBM, Okidata Microline, Diablo, Hewlett-Packard LaserJet and plain-vanilla printers); mouse.
System used for test: 512K Victor V286 with 1.2MB diskette drive, 20MB hard disk, EGA color monitor and Apple LaserWriter.
List Price: $195, with 30-day money-back guarantee.

Reviewed by Franklyn Jones

Decision Pad is an ambitious new management tool. It is based on an analytical methodology called "Decision Tree Thinking," which was developed at Harvard University. Such a method may sound complicated, but it is actually logical and straightforward in its implementation.

Apian Software deserves much of the credit for keeping the program from being intimidating, even for novice users, by offering context-sensitive online help, pull-down and pop-up menus, user-defined color support and step-by-step tutorials. Decision Pad even prompts you every 10 minutes to save your work to disk. If the latter feature proves annoying, it can be disabled.

When you boot Decision Pad, the first thing you see is a clean screen with eight main menu options across the top row. Each selection has a pull-down menu that contains related options. You can simply use your Down Arrow key to highlight your choice, then press the Return key. After you become thoroughly familiar with all the menus and options, you can bypass this route and issue commands using the Alt key in combination with the first letter of the option (e.g., [ALT-Q] to quit the program). Lotus 1-2-3 users will appreciate that commands also can be executed using the Slash key followed by the first letter.

The documentation presents three effective and increasingly complex tutorial "case studies," which help you get familiar with the structure and flow of Decision Pad. In the simplest, you set up a model to decide which of three vastly different restaurants is most appropriate for an out-of-town client.

Each alternative is rated according to three criteria (atmosphere, price and distance from the airport). In this example, each criterion is given the same weight, so atmosphere, price and distance are equally important. However, real applications aren't that simple, and Decision Pad knows it. So the program lets you play "what if" and assign different weights to different criteria to see how the rating of each restaurant would change.

Decision Pad models are based on the same basic formula of rating up to four alternatives per model according to certain criteria. This method may seem simplistic and limited in scope, but Decision Pad lets you rearrange, add, delete, edit and redefine data within a model in an endless number of ways. If you have the time, you can get into some incredibly complex "what if" scenarios that let you examine a multitude of options. After you've completed your work or any step along the way, Decision Pad can generate on-screen or hard-copy reports in various graphic and tabular formats.

Spreadsheet users may be happy to learn that Decision Pad can import and export data from and to Lotus 1-2-3 or Symphony-compatible spreadsheets as ".WKS" files. Data can be selected from or placed into a specific section of rows and columns within a spreadsheet. This is particularly useful when making decisions based on financial data. Information also can be exported from Decision Pad to other programs via ASCII files.

Although Decision Pad's documentation includes three detailed and helpful tutorials, there should have been a more thorough reference section describing how best to use many of the powerful menu options. Admittedly, that would double the size of the 100-page manual, but it would be appreciated by power users in the Lotus market.

Although Decision Pad is well designed and is a versatile tool, it isn't necessary for everyone who needs to make a decision. Apian Software is candid enough to admit that in its documentation, stating that the program is "especially appropriate when you must make repetitive decisions based on lots of detailed or frequent changes." Even that description may be overstating the case.

The bottom line is that Decision Pad provides a numerical rating (based on a 1.0-to-10.0 scale) of your alternatives. To a large extent, the value of the rating depends on your ability to accurately assign weights to the various criteria used in your model. Thus, Decision Pad results should best be used as a guideline in making the right decision, rather than being used as the decision itself. Approached from that perspective, this inexpensive program may be worth the investment.

Franklyn Jones was formerly the managing editor of Interface Age *magazine and editor-in-chief of* IBM PC Update *magazine. He has written articles for various computer publications, is a regular contributor to* Online Today *and serves as a marketing and communications consultant.*

Trademarks: Apple and LaserWriter (Apple Computer Inc.); Decision Pad (Apian Software Inc.); IBM, IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and PC-DOS (International Business Machines Corp.); Lotus, 1-2-3 and Symphony (Lotus Development Corp.); MS-DOS (Microsoft Corp.).

GO OLI or circle 20 on the Reader Service Form.

OCP Art Studio

Offers Interesting Graphics Features

Firebird Licensees
P.O. Box 49
Ramsey, NJ 07446

Computer: Commodore 64.
Operating System: Commodore DOS.
Media: Requires one Commodore-compatible diskette drive.
Copy Protection: None.
Required Peripherals: None.
Other Requirements: None.
Optional Items: Joystick controller; mouse; printer.
System used for test: Commodore 64 with Commodore 1541 disk drive, Commodore Amiga 1080 monitor, Wico Command Control Joystick, Contriver Enterprises Mouse, Epson RX-80 F/T+ printer and Progressive Peripherals & Software Device One printer interface.
Retail Price: $39.95

Reviewed by Cheryl Peterson

Whoever named the OCP Art Studio picked a perfect moniker. This isn't a computer-aided design or drafting system but a graphic artist's drawing pad. With different styles of pens and brushes available, it is a true stroke of genius.

This graphics package uses a Macintosh-like user interface. Two menu bars at the top of the screen contain pull-down options. Commands are grouped in a logical manner and control everything from changing colors to printing and disk storage. Keyboard input is supported for those who prefer not to use a joystick or other input device.

The package has two diskettes: the OCP Art Studio and the Advanced OCP Art Studio. Both offer wonderful tools for editing fonts, fill patterns and brushes, so you can design your own if you don't like theirs.

In the font editor, you point to a letter's on-screen representation to indicate which to modify. This font editor is as simple and complete as any I've seen.

Text can be set to write right to left, left to right or top to bottom as you type. Type size must be set to natural or to two or three times normal height or width before you start typing. Once you've targeted an origin point with the cursor, type normally. Pressing the Return key moves you to the extremity of the next "line."

Cut, copy and paste functions work as they do on a Macintosh or Amiga, so replicating and moving picture sections is easy. Window functions add flexibility to operations such as clearing a section or rotating and flipping parts, and you can be creative with partitioning and manipulating "bits and pieces."

The basic version is a bit more difficult to use than the advanced version when changing colors. It forgets what drawing instrument you were using. There is no default, so until you chose one, moving and clicking accomplish nothing.

Another oddity is that choosing a paper color doesn't change the background color on the canvas. Instead, anything added appears on the new background color, completely overwriting the previous background.

The Shapes menu makes it simple to create squares, rectangles, triangles, lines, rays, continuous lines, points and two different kinds of circles. Circles are unique. With one type, you create a circle by designating its midpoint and then mark its exterior edge. With the second type, you designate a point on the edge and then place the circle's center wherever you want it.

Zoom and pan modes assist close-up work or display "the big picture."

What drawing program is complete without an "undo" command? This one undoes everything since the last time you accessed a menu option. If you get something just right, it is smart to "rechoose" your brush type or color to "fix" the change so it can't accidentally be undone. Of course, if it is perfect you can "fix" it to disk for posterity.

The real difference between the basic and advanced disks seems to be resolution. The advanced version uses multicolor mode and higher resolution. It also has a priority setting, allowing greater flexibility in which colors go "on top" of others. The advanced version has fewer brushes (12 vs. 16) and fill patterns (12 vs. 32) but offers the same number of spray can patterns (eight).

A short BASIC "multiloader" program displays pictures without the Art Studio program. This loader may be incorporated into your programs to let you use your graphics.

Two manuals, both with indexes and glossaries, make up the documentation. Sample pictures are included on each disk. The manual's screen illustrations show you what you should be seeing.

The OCP Art Studio offers both joystick and mouse control simultaneously, and it is easy to switch between the two. I tried a Contriver Enterprises mouse, and it worked wonderfully. A Koala Pad also works, but light pens don't.

I found OCP Art Studio easy to use with only a few minor irritations. Even so, it was my misunderstanding of the color priority system in the less advanced version that caused difficulties. The graphics aren't necessarily compatible with GeoPaint or other graphics programs, but Art Studio does have the most commonly used drawing mechanisms incorporated into it at a fair price.

Cheryl Peterson, a free-lance writer from Miami Beach, writes reviews for several computer magazines. Her CompuServe User ID number is 72366.2645.

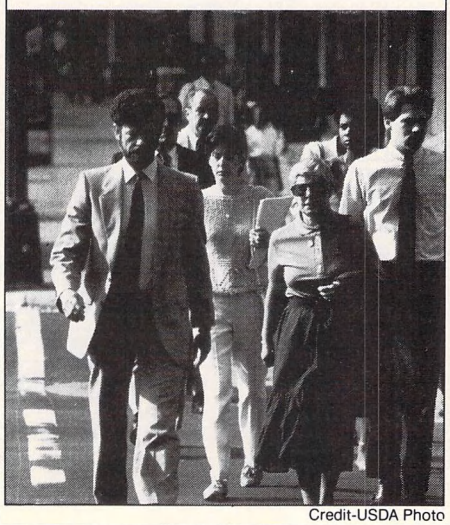
Trademarks: Commodore and Amiga (Commodore Business Machines Inc.); Epson RX-80 (Epson America Inc.); GeoPaint (Berkeley Softworks); Koala Pad (Koala Technologies Inc.); Macintosh (McIntosh Laboratories Inc., licensed to Apple Computer Inc.); OCP (Rainbird Software).

GO OLI or circle 21 on the Reader Service Form.

TAX TIP
A Public Service of the IRS

"Here's a NEW TAX LAW tip"

Generally, the new tax law requires you to pay at least 90 percent of your 1987 income tax through withholding or estimated tax payments. If you don't, you may have to pay a penalty. Publication 505 contains more information. Call 1-800-424-FORM (3676) or the IRS Forms number in your phone book to get a copy.



Credit-USDA Photo

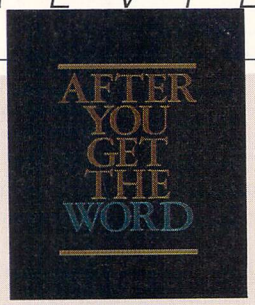
After You Get the Word

By Burton L. Alperson
Scott, Foresman and Co., 1987
534 pages, $21.95 (softcover)
Reviewed by Robert Sanchez

You don't have to hide this book from the kids, despite chapter titles such as "The Dirty Word" and "The Unexpurgated Dirty Word." Luckily, the silliness of the titles does not filter down to the text. Alperson has written a solid, thorough guide to using Microsoft Word.

The best feature of *After You Get the Word* is its organization. You don't need to read the book from cover to cover because the author intentionally repeats information either in complete explanations, brief summaries or one-liners. In 43 chapters spanning five sections, the author covers the program from every angle.

The book is both a learning tool for beginners and a reference manual for veteran users. Alperson offers the beginner an excellent overview of word processing concepts and a brief chapter on entering and leaving Word.



The Last Word: *Alperson*

A section called "The Basic Word" contains chapters describing frequently needed features, such as procedures for formatting, handling and printing documents, and useful shortcuts. "The Advanced Word" deals with topics you may require less often, such as indexing, outlining, style sheets, glossaries and sorting. Alperson's descriptions are clear and engaging.

"The Advanced Word" mentions an undocumented library feature for exiting to DOS and executing multiple commands. Alperson warns about placing COMMAND.COM in your document subdirectory to make the feature work, but he doesn't tell you the price for ignoring him: Your computer will freeze up, and nothing but the On/Off switch will get you back in the game.

The next section, "The Dirty Word," is an excellent quick reference that helps get a job done in a hurry, even if you don't understand how Word works. Each page deals with a separate function, describing which keystrokes to use, what the function means, what you see and what to note when using the keyboard or the mouse.

Only two chapters fall short: "The Inside Out Dirty Word," a "backward reference guide," contains a one-page cross-reference of nearly 250 listings. You need a magnifying glass to read that page. Also, "The Quick and Dirty Word" summarizes the common commands on a single page. Although it is easier on the eyes, it is still too "quick and dirty" for practical use.

The final chapter discusses desktop publishing and is followed by a useful appendix on managing a style sheet library.

Minor criticisms aside, Alperson's book is well worth owning.

Robert Sanchez is a technical writer living in North Billerica, Mass.

Advanced PFS: Professional Write & File

By Janice M. Gessin and
Mark Brownstein
Osborne/McGraw-Hill, 1987
400 pages, $16.95 (softcover)
Reviewed by Darrow Kirkpatrick

Software Publishing has a reputation for producing solid business software with a fast learning curve. The classic PFS series set the standard for novice-friendly word processing, data management and analysis.

Late last year, Software Publishing released the first of its "Professional" series—the programs that update the PFS line. *Advanced PFS: Professional Write & File* attempts to retain the simplicity and ease of use of predecessors, while adding a slick interface, new features and an emphasis on speed and productivity.

The authors of the book must have felt that the increased sophistication of the Professional series would send users in search of help. They give a clear, thorough introduction to the *Write & File* modules using hands-on tutorials or "task lists," clear graphics of menus and screens, advanced tips and application examples. Their book has three major parts: the first covers the Write module, the second the File module and the third the integration of the two.

Appendixes cover such topics as file conversion, setup and printer support. The book does not cover the Plan and Network modules of the series, but mentions that they will be included in future editions.

Like the software it presents, *Advanced PFS: Professional Write & File* gently introduces readers to the technology. Frequently the book uses familiar manual methods as a starting point for discussing how the computer can do things better. It is full of useful warnings and reassurances: don't exit the program without saving the file, refer to the appendix if you can't get a printout, don't worry about text being overwritten by an insert operation, design databases thoughtfully, have a company standard for abbreviations and so on.

Some of the warnings and tips are needed because the Professional Series isn't powerful enough for certain jobs. In these cases, I wonder if the book would help readers by recommending more powerful software. Instead, it brushes off other software with the comment, "Many of these products are very difficult to learn and use."

The third part, "Integration of PFS: Professional Modules," could be the most useful section of the book, but it presents only a few examples of merging File records with Write documents and just one example of incorporating a File Report into a Write document. There is also a brief review of macros but no examples. The book is weakened by the omission of Professional Plan, since without this spreadsheet it cannot show readers the full benefits of software integration.

Given the simplicity, friendliness and online help of the PFS: Professional series, I wonder why users need much documentation at all. If you own the programs and need help getting started with them, you could benefit from *Advanced PFS: Professional Write & File*. Still, I tend to believe that the book can serve best as an evaluation of the programs for those who are considering buying them.

Darrow Kirkpatrick is an independent computer consultant and technical writer living in New Paltz, N.Y.

The Elementary Apple IIgs

By William B. Sanders
COMPUTE! Books, 1987
262 pages, $15.95 (softcover)
Reviewed by Brian D. Monahan

The Elementary Apple IIgs is an elementary text, as the title suggests. The author is quite clear about the intended audience for the book: "It is not designed for professional programmers or for learning more about applications. It is the first step for beginners on the Apple IIgs."

The book uses a tutorial format. Readers are encouraged to start at the beginning and work their way through the entire book. A short introduction is followed by a step-by-step section on hooking up the IIgs and booting it up. After reading the first 15 pages, a novice user will be running the IIgs.

Topics that are often confusing to novice users are covered in detail. They include the functions of the special keys on the keyboard and the function of the various ports available on the IIgs. Printers, a topic that traditionally baffles novice users, are covered briefly but clearly in one of the book's final chapters. Special attention is given to Epson printers, the Apple ImageWriter and the LaserWriter.

Those who are computer novices will find *The Elementary Apple IIgs* to be a useful book. It is clearly written and well illustrated. The tutorial format works well, and the book's spiral binding allows it to remain open by the side of the computer. (Unfortunately, my cover began falling off after one week's use.) However, those who have any computer experience, especially experience with an earlier generation of Apple computers, will probably find that they know most of the material covered in the book.

With the exception of a small amount of specific information on the set-up of the machine and on the sound and graphics capabilities of the IIgs, this book would be equally appropriate for users of the Apple II Plus, IIe and IIc. *The Elementary Apple IIgs* is definitely not for those who are making a transition to the IIgs from an earlier Apple computer.

All potential readers should be aware that this book devotes a great deal of attention to the BASIC programming language. In fact, it covers little else. Users who are looking for a book that covers strategies for selecting and using applications programs (spreadsheets and databases, for example) should look elsewhere. With the exception of one brief chapter at the end of the book, *The Elementary Apple IIgs* does not cover applications software. The book also ignores most of the new programs that have currently become available to take advantage of the enhanced capabilities of the IIgs.

The Elementary Apple IIgs is a well-written, easy-to-follow introduction to programming in BASIC on the Apple IIgs. Those who have that as their goal will be satisfied with the book.

Brian D. Monahan is an associate professor and coordinator of graduate programs in the computer science department at Iona College, New Rochelle, N.Y. He also is deputy mayor of Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. Monahan's areas of interest are educational computing and the use of computers in government. His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,3000.

Desktop Publishing with Your IBM PC & Compatible

By Jerry Willis
Knight-Ridder Press, 1987
320 pages, $15.95 (softcover)
Reviewed by James Moran

Desktop publishing is the hot topic in the microcomputer world. Those who know about it want to know more, and those who don't know about it wonder what all the commotion is about. Eight million people now own IBM or compatible computers—machines capable of bringing typesetting into the home or office.

Thousands of microcomputers are being prepared to publish newsletters, flyers, brochures, pamphlets and virtually every kind of printed material that was previously typeset. Willis instructs IBM PC owners on the capability of their computers and suggests options they may want to consider.

For novices, the book begins with a history of printing. It examines the way printed material is put on paper and suggests that the latest development—the laser printer—is revolutionary rather than evolutionary. Willis examines this latest addition to the long list of computer peripherals and discusses its graphics capabilities.

There is more to publishing than the printing device, so Willis includes discussions about typography and design. Noting that "junk" printing may be worse than no printing at all, Willis guides readers through the technicalities of printing so they will recognize the inherent benefits of clean design.

In the last major hardware discussion, readers are instructed to evaluate their needs prior to selecting a laser printer. Those who find laser printers too expensive will learn that other equally attractive options are available without the high cost.

Desktop publishing doesn't run on hardware alone, and the software side of the process is examined in more than 100 pages of text. These sections are detailed with an emphasis on software that is technically complete yet relatively simple to operate, including word processors, page composition packages, software to create graphics and integrated packages that do it all.

Desktop Publishing with Your IBM PC & Compatible is a complete text that guides even the novice through desktop publishing. Starting with the fundamentals, the book takes readers through the steps necessary to create professional work. Clearly written, this book is an essential guide to desktop publishing for IBM PC owners.

James Moran is a free-lance writer and frequent contributor to Online Today. *His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,2253.*

Electronic Edition Book Reviews

The following book reviews are available this month on *Online Today Electronic Edition* by typing GO OLT-240 at any CompuServe Information Service prompt.

Advanced Amiga BASIC, *by Tom R. Halfhill and Charles Brannon, Compute! Books.*

The New Writer: Techniques for Writing Well with a Computer, *by Joan P. Mitchell, Microsoft Press.*

Turbo Pascal Toolbox: A Programmer's Guide, *by Paul Garrison, TAB Books Inc.*

Commodore 128 Data File Programming, *by David Miller, TAB Books Inc.*

RapidFile for Business Users, *by Amanda C. Hixson, Bantam Computer Books.*

Tandy 4000

Radio Shack has introduced the Tandy 4000 personal computer that features the Intel 80386 microprocessor technology.

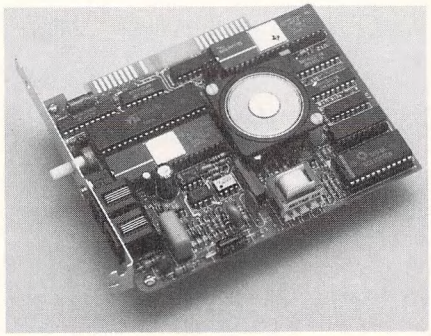
Retailing for $2,599, the computer is designed to run MS-DOS 3.3, OS/2 and Unix 5.3 operating systems and the Microsoft Windows operating environment. It also supports a wide range of graphics capabilities, including VGA, CGA and EGA. Features include a 3.5-inch, 1.44MB floppy disk drive and four state-of-the-art single-in-line memory modules in the base configuration.

For information, contact your local Radio Shack store, Radio Shack Computer Center or Radio Shack Plus Computer Center.

Zoom/Modem HC 2400

The Zoom/Modem HC 2400 from ZOOM Telephonics is a 300, 1200, 2400 baud Hayes-compatible modem that sells for $199.

The internal, half-card modem is designed for the IBM PC, PC-XT, PC-AT and compatibles and comes with ProComm communications software. Feaatures include an on-board speaker with volume control, an audio jack for use with an optional external speaker and support of four COM ports. Auto-answer/auto-dial, dial-tone detection, a second jack for a local phone, adaptive equalization and an on-board power-up



also are provided.

For information, contact ZOOM Telephonics Inc., 207 South St., Boston, MA 02111; 617/423-1072.

Datec Modem

Datec has introduced the 224KTH, a 300, 1200, 2400 and 4800 baud modem that operates at full- or half-duplex on dial-up or leased lines.

The 224KTH combines the latest technology in data compression, error correction and speed conversion as well as the AT command set. The unit is available as a stand-alone modem or as a rack mount with 16 cards to a data rack.

For information, contact Datec Inc., Box 13468, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-3568; 800/334-7722 (nationwide) or 919/544-6433 (in North Carolina).

AppleTalk Link

Centram has introduced an AppleTalk link to TCP/IP-based networks called the TOPS Terminal for the Macintosh.

The software package allows the Apple Macintosh to communicate with machines ranging from workstations to supercomputers on the TCP/IP-based networks. The applications and file storage of any number of networked hosts can be tapped simultaneously. A concurrent modem connection to a remote host also may be established. In addition, the package's integrated text editor enables users to directly edit Unix, PC and Macintosh textfiles without conversion.

For information, contact Centram Inc., 2560 9th St., Suite 220, Berkeley, CA 94710; 415/549-5900.

Enhanced SmartCom

Smartcom II for the Apple Macintosh has been enhanced by Hayes Microcomputer Products to take advantage of Apple's new Macintosh SE and Macintosh II computers.

The new version of the program is compatible with MultiFinder, Apple's multitasking operating system, and allows users to move and resize its windows, including the terminal screen. Users can view multiple applications simultaneously and see larger amounts of text and graphics when using a large-screen monitor. Smartcom II supports the popular MacBinary, XMODEM and Hayes Verification file transfer protocols. It also provides Autopilot capability for automating repetitive tasks and performing unattended operations. Retail price is $149.

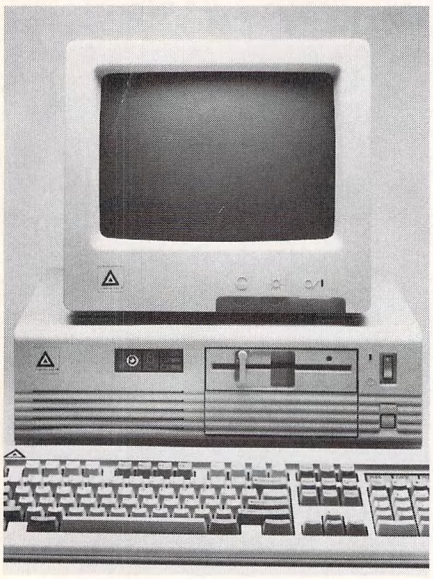
For information, contact Hayes Microcomputer Products Inc., P.O. Box 105203, Atlanta, GA 30348; 404/449-8791.

MORE Graphics

Living Videotext has introduced MORE, a desktop publishing program for the Apple Macintosh computer.

In addition to providing organization, word processing and outlining capabilities, MORE offers users a means of quickly composing and producing presentations consisting of text, graphics, bullet charts and tree charts. The package supports color on the Macintosh II.

For information, contact Living Videotext, 117 Easy St., Mountain View, CA 94043; 415/964-6300.



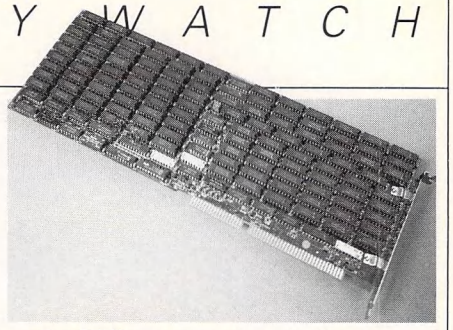
Leading Edge PC-AT-Compatible

Leading Edge has introduced the Model D2 personal computer, a fully compatible IBM PC-AT unit that sells for $1,495.

Features include a high-resolution monochrome monitor with enhanced graphics adapter, a 101-key AT-style keyboard, 3.2 DOS and GW Basic software. The Model D2 is one-third smaller than the comparable IBM PC-AT, measuring 16 inches wide by 15.5 inches deep by 6.1 inches high. All controls are conveniently located on the front bezel of the unit. Using a 80286 chip with a standard 640K memory, the Model D2 comes with a standard 1.2 MB floppy disk plus six expansion slots.

For information, contact Leading Edge Products Inc., 225 Turnpike St., Canton, MA 02021; 617/828-8150.

The Elephant Board



American Micronics has introduced The Elephant Board, an expansion board that adds up to 4MB of high-speed memory to the IBM PS/2 system, models 50 and 60.

The unit can operate as extended or expanded (EMS) memory. The Elephant Board uses low-power, 1MB CMOS RAM chips with on-board parity generation and checking. The memory is 16 bits and is totally compatible with the IBM microchannel bus used on the PS/2 systems. Installation is easy, with no need to set DIP switches.

For information, contact American Micronics Inc., 17831 Skypark Circle, Irvine, MA 92714; 714/261-2428.

FullWrite Word Processor

FullWrite, a new Macintosh word processing program from Ann Arbor Softworks, features the Microlytics spelling technology and Word Finder thesaurus.

The entire spelling dictionary and thesaurus take up only 228K of disk space, allowing FullWrite users to avoid disk swapping. The dictionary features a 100,000-word lexicon, including thousands of words used in everyday correspondence but not found in other spelling products.

The spelling verifier/corrector features algorithms that help correct spelling and typographical errors and quickly generate alternatives. The word processor itself features an extensive drawing environment with Bezier curve capability, outlining, posted notes for making comments and change bars that visually highlight changes between drafts of a document. Retail price is $395.

For information, contact Microlytics Inc., Techniplex, 300 Main St., East Rochester, NY 14445; 716/248-9150.

Electronic Edition Product Announcements

The following new product announcements are available this month in *Online Today Electronic Edition* by typing GO OLT-250 at any CompuServe Information Service prompt.

QuickKeys, *a keyboard enhancer for the Macintosh computer, CE Software.*

Memory Lane, *software program that indexes every word, number and change on an IBM PC's hard disk, Group L Corp.*

NoWait, *add-in that allows Lotus 1-2-3 to perform functions concurrently, Biologic Co.*

Designer, *full-color graphic art and technical illustration program for the IBM PC that is compatible with Microsoft Windows, Micrografx Inc.*

MacViewFrame, *portable LCD computer projection display device for the Macintosh, nVIEW Corp.*

Info-XL, *an information management program for structured data records on the IBM PC, Valor Software Corp.*

Menu Works, *software organizational tool for the IBM PC and compatibles, PC Dynamics Inc.*

ActionTracker, *project management software for the IBM PC, Information Research Corp.*

SOS, *an enhanced version of Save Our Spreadsheet, a utility for the IBM PC that prevents spreadsheet data loss, Goldata Computer Services.*

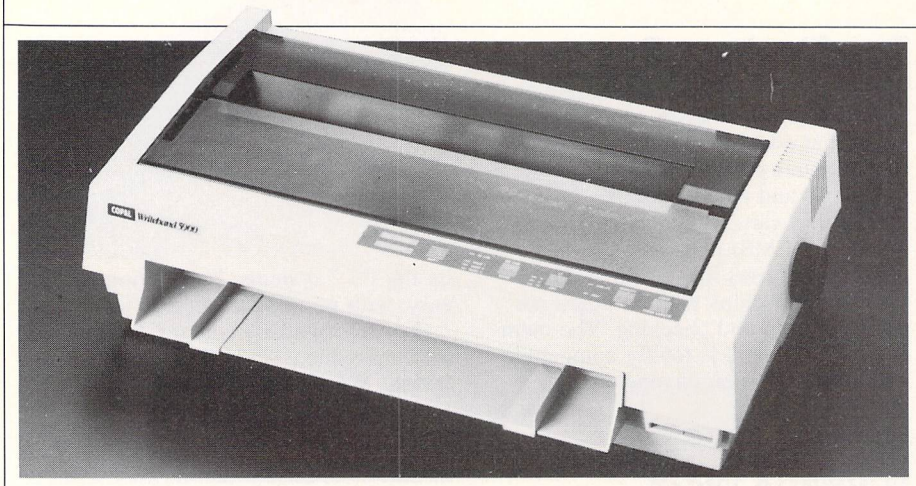
Golden Retriever, *intelligent document and text retrieval program for the IBM PC, S. K. Data Inc.*

WorldPort Modem

Touchbase Systems has introduced the WorldPort 2400 Portable Modem.

This compact, battery-powered external device can be used as a direct-connect or acoustic coupler modem at 300, 1200 and 2400 baud. Features include auto-dial/auto-answer, pulse and tone dialing, non-volatile storage of up to 20 commands, an internal speaker for audible monitoring of a call and an LED array. The WorldPort 2400 is designed for international use. Retail price is $359.

For information, contact Touchbase Systems, 16 Green Acre Ln., Northport, NY 11768; 516/261-0423.



Wide Carriage Printer

The WH 5900 printer from Copal USA is a wide carriage, dot-matrix printer that offers true letter-quality printing and features a convenient front-feed design for simple feeding of cut sheet paper and envelopes.

The 18-pin print head of the WH 5900 prints at 240 cps in draft mode and 120 cps in letter-quality mode. It comes standard with both Epson FX and IBM Proprinter XL emulation. An intelligent front control panel allows for programming of major printer functions, such as pitch, font style and print quality. Retail price is $795.

For information, contact Copal USA, 2291 205th St., #105, Torrance, CA 90501; 213/618-0225.

Auto-Intelligence

IntelligenceWare has introduced Auto-Intelligence, an automatic knowledge acquisition system.

Auto-Intelligence captures the knowledge of an expert through interactive interviews, distills the knowledge and then automatically generates an expert system. Methods of automatic induction are used to capture knowledge unobtainable without computer assistance. Designed for the IBM PC, PC-XT and PC-AT, the program retails for $490.

For information, contact IntelligenceWare Inc., 9800 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Suite 730, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

VideoWorks II

Brøderbund Software has introduced VideoWorks II, a Macintosh program that allows users to create professional-looking slide shows and animated presentations for business, education, science, art or entertainment.

Retailing for $195, VideoWorks II features several animation tools, including an overview window that helps users assemble shows with up to 24 images on the screen at once. Both art and animation can be moved around using familiar Macintosh commands such as Cut, Copy and Paste.

For information, contact Brøderbund Software Inc., 17 Paul Dr., San Rafael, CA 94903-2101; 415/492-3200.

Show Me! File Viewing

Show Me! from Serengeti Software is a pop-up file viewing utility for the IBM PC family and compatibles and the IBM PS/2.

Show Me! displays the contents of WordStar documents and any other disk file in an adjustable window, which can be used to consult several documents at once and copy blocks into the current text. Retail price is $39.

For information, contact Serengeti Software, P.O. Box 27254, Austin, TX 78755; 512/345-2211.

Password Protection

The NightWatch from Kent Marsh Ltd. is password protection software for hard disks on the Macintosh computer.

The NightWatch offers users complete protection from others gaining unauthorized access to their hard disks. Once the hard disk is securely shut down, the only way to unlock it is to start the Macintosh with one of the special NightWatch diskettes and provide an authorized name and password. Retail price is $79.95.

For information, contact Kent Marsh Ltd., 1200 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 210, Houston, TX 77056-3104.

VideoScape 3D

Aegis Development has introduced VideoScape 3D for the Commodore Amiga computer.

This new program produces three dimensional graphics and animations. Three programs are included in the package: Designer 3D for creating 3D objects, PlayANIM for playing animations back in real time, and VideoScape 3D for making the finished video. Utilities for creating common geometric shapes such as spheres, cones, rectangles and fractal landscapes are also included. Retail price is $199.95.

For information, contact Aegis Development Inc., 2115 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90405; 213/392-9972.

Backup Master

Intersecting Concepts has introduced a new backup utility that finally breaks the DOS speed barrier.

Backup Master 2.2, a high-speed backup program for the IBM PC family and PS/2 series, can back up 10MB of information to MS-DOS formatted 360K or 730K floppies in less than eight minutes. Retailing for $89.95, Backup Master includes a preview display that shows exactly which files and directories will be included and excluded in the backup.

For information, contact Intersecting Concepts, 80 Long Court, Suite 1-A, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360; 800/422-8018 (nationwide) or 805/373-3900 (in California).

Want to Read More Hardware Reviews?

GO OLT-220 from any prompt in the CompuServe Information Service and choose this month's reviews from the main menu.

ONLINE TODAY

Guidelines to Requesting Information Through OLI

Online Inquiry

Online Inquiry is *Online Today*'s electronic version of the traditional reader inquiry card. To request additional information about products or services described in *Online Today*, simply access CompuServe and type GO OLI at any prompt.

CompuServe Page OLI-1
ONLINE TODAY ADVERTISERS
ONLINE INQUIRY (OLI)

1. OLI Instructions
2. Online Today Display Ads
3. Print Edition Reviews
4. Shopper's Guide Mini-Ads

Display Ads

GO OLI-160. Inquiries to this section will be followed by a brief description of the *Online Today* ad. To request additional printed information, simply enter your name and address at the prompts. OLI will add your User ID number and electronically forward your request to the appropriate advertiser(s). The names, addresses and User ID numbers will also be forwarded via US Mail at the end of each month.

CompuServe Page OLI-160
ONLINE TODAY ADVERTISERS/OLI

1. Jan. 1988 Advertisers
2. Dec. 1987 Advertisers
3. Nov. 1987 Advertisers

Editorial Articles/Reviews

At the end of each electronic version product review, you'll be asked if you wish to request further information through the Online Inquiry system. A "yes" response will let the system prompt you for your name, address and other information so that your request can be forwarded to the appropriate company. If you respond "no," the system will return you to the previous menu.

To request information about products reviewed in the print edition, go to page OLI-280 and select the appropriate listing, such as January Hardware Reviews. At the next menu, select the product you're interested in. If you answer "yes" at the question prompt, the OLI system will prompt you for the necessary information.

Requests to these sections will be stored and forwarded by traditional mail once each month.

CompuServe Page OLI-280
REVIEW LISTINGS/PRINT EDITION

1. Jan. Hardware Listings
2. Jan. Software Listings
3. Jan. New Product Listings

Shopper's Guide

GO OLI-70 to get information about *Online Today*'s mini-ad program.

To request information from Shopper's Guide advertisers, follow the instructions outlined in each ad.

CompuServe Page OLI-70
SHOPPER'S GUIDE

1. About Shopper's Guide
2. Rates and Information

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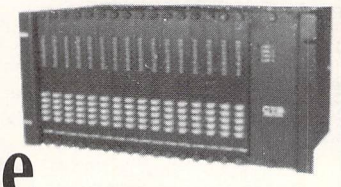

A revolutionary software package that runs under straight PC or MS-DOS to economically drive from 16 to 32 data lines, now offers an unparalleled array of revenue producing and money saving possibilities.

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For free information on products or services in this issue of *Online Today*, fill in your name, address, ZIP code and phone number. Then circle the number that corresponds to the number of the advertisement or article in which you are interested.

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January issue, not valid after April 1988.

Find Treasures in Data Libraries

Without question, one of the most important facets of CompuServe is the collection of data libraries in the various forums, which become more valuable literally every day.

Across the system, the data libraries are the repositories of tens of thousands of public-domain and shareware programs, helpful articles from administrators and fellow subscribers, and pertinent discussions archived from the forums' message boards. Some electronic files date back five years or more, becoming cornerstones for a particular forum; others have been contributed in the last day or so.

This month we'll look at some of the commands for accessing and searching data libraries in any of CompuServe's 100 forums. Next month's column will concentrate on the actual retrieval of files.

A forum can have up to 18 data libraries, each devoted to a section of the group's main interest. Names and uses of the data libraries are determined by the forum administrator with advice of the forum's members.

If you're visiting a forum for the first time and want to browse its archives, you should start by getting a list of the library names. To do that, at the forum's function menu or prompt type the command LN (for Library Names). This will produce a list showing numbers and one-line names, such as:

```
**********
1 General Interest/Help
2 Software Utilities
3 Hardware Utilities
4 News Releases
5 Previous Discussions
**********
```

The digit on the left is the number of the data library. When you're ready to access the library, at the function prompt type the command DL followed by the library's number. For instance, if you wanted to browse the Software Utilities library in this example, you'd type DL2. To get more information about the library you've accessed, you can type DES at the subsequent data library prompt or menu. This will produce a description written by the forum administrator.

The main command for looking at the material in a data library is BRO (for "browse"). Typed at the data library prompt, BRO will list a file's name and description, then ask if you'd like to read it (if it's a textfile), download it with an error-checking protocol such as B Protocol or XMODEM (if it's a binary file such as a program), go on to the next filename and description, or quit and return to the main prompt.

But since a single data library could contain hundreds of files, it's not very practical to try to browse them all. For that reason, the system provides several additional commands to aid your search. All files in a data library have at least two things in common that you can use to narrow your browsing. Each file has:

- An age, that is, the number of days it has resided in the electronic reservoir.
- Keywords. Everyone who contributes a file to the libraries has the opportunity to specify a few words that describe the file's subject.

Suppose you've accessed a favorite data library and wish to browse only the files that have been uploaded in the past week. At the data library prompt, type the command BRO/AGE:7. The latter part of the command —/AGE7— is called a "switch." If you do not type /AGE and /KEY, the software will prompt for the information if you are in menu mode.

Similarly, you can specify a keyword as a switch. Perhaps you want to search the data library for files that contain "IBM" among their keywords. You can type BRO/KEY:IBM. Only descriptions of files that meet the specification will be displayed.

The /AGE and /KEY switches also can be used together—BRO/KEY:IBM/AGE7 would display descriptions of files uploaded in the past seven days that contain the letters IBM among their keywords.

Keywords are so important to the use of the data libraries that another command also is available. Suppose you want to see how many files in a data library have the keyword "APPLE." At the data library prompt, type KEY:APPLE and the system will scan its records and report the number. Or, if you want to see a list of all the keywords employed in the data library, type KEY (without a following word). However, remember, in a busy forum, that could be quite a list, since every file can have several keywords attached.

Also about keywords, note that you don't always have to use a complete word. A *wildcard* allows you to use a partial word. Let's suppose you were looking for files on computer training and you wanted those mentioning "training," "trainers," "train" and other similar words. Instead of looking for each spelling, type BRO/KEY:TRAIN*. The asterisk tells the system to look for keywords beginning with the letters "TRAIN" no matter how the word ends.

The BRO command and wildcards also can be used with specific filenames. Suppose you knew that the file you wanted to browse was named FARM, but you didn't know what three-letter extension was on the file. You could type BRO FARM.* which might show you FARM.BAS, FARM.DOC, FARM.EXE and others. Or BRO FARM*.* might show you FARMER.BAS, FARMNG.TXT, FARMPC.DOC and so forth.

Speaking of extensions, some are used for special purposes in most of the forums and can be used with wildcards in your searching. For instance, in most forums, the extension .TXT means a "text" file, such as an article, so you can type BRO *.TXT to find such files in that library. Similarly, in many forums, .BAS stands for a program written in BASIC; .BIN sometimes is used to mean a binary file, .DOC almost universally is used to mean "documentation," that is, the instructions for a program.The extension .HLP often is used to mean a "help" file. In forums devoted to specific kinds of computers, other extensions are also used. Usually the forum administrators have online help files to specify the group's extensions.

Finally, the actual organization of a forum's data libraries can help you in finding the material you're looking for. Many forums now are setting aside one library for "new uploads." For example, in most of the forums of the IBM Users Network, newly contributed files always spend their first 30 days in Data Library 0, before being moved by the forum administrator to another library for permanent residence. This makes it easier for online visitors to keep up with what's new and hot in the forums. Instead of having to browse each library, the user can type DL0 at the function prompt, then type BRO/AGE:1 to see what's been added in the past 24 hours.

Next month we'll continue our examination of data libraries, focusing on the downloading of files you find.

Charles Bowen, a contributing editor of Online Today, *co-authored* How to Get the Most Out of CompuServe *and* CompuServe for IBM PC Power Users. *His CompuServe User ID number is 70007,411.*

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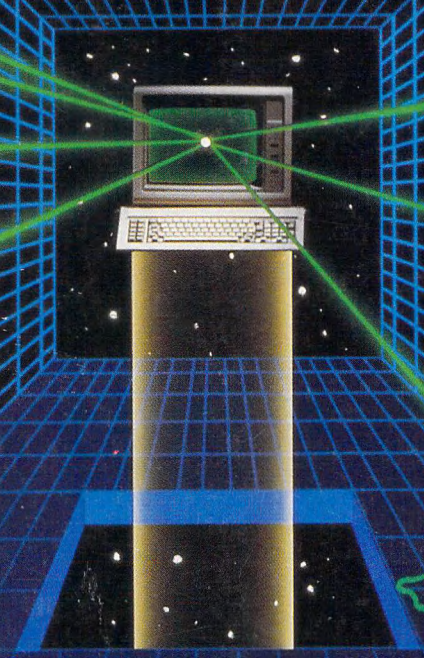

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